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## IMPEACHMENT

# Ambassador Sondland affirms 'quid pro quo' with Ukraine



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland prepares to testify before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday during a public impeachment hearing.

## Witness says he was working at 'express direction' of Trump

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK  
AND ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ambassador Gordon Sondland told House impeachment investigators Wednesday that he worked with Rudy Giuliani on Ukraine at the "express direction" of President Donald Trump and pushed for a political "quid pro quo" with Kyiv because it was what Trump wanted.

"Mr. Giuliani was expressing the desires of the president of the United States, and we knew that these investigations were important to the president," Sondland testified of his dealings with Trump's personal attorney.

Sondland, the most highly anticipated witness in the public impeachment probe, made clear that he believed Trump was pursuing his desire for political investigations in return for an Oval Office meeting that the Eastern European nation's new president sought to bolster his alliance with the West. Sondland said he later came to believe military aid that Ukraine relied on to counter Russia was also being held up until the investigations were launched.

In a blockbuster morning of testimony, Sondland's opening remarks included several key details: He confirmed that he spoke with Trump on a cellphone from a busy Kyiv restaurant the day after the president prodded Ukraine's leader to

SEE SONDLAND ON PAGE 8

## Gallagher, other SEALs to undergo Navy review

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — San Diego-based Naval Special Warfare Command is initiating a so-called "trident review" of four SEALs involved in a closely watched war crimes case that divided the tight-knit SEAL community and became a cause celebre for conservative commentators and politicians.

Among the SEALs coming under review, according to defense officials with knowledge of the case, are Lt. Cmdr. Robert Breisch, Lt. Thomas MacNeil.

Lt. Jacob Portier and Chief Petty Officer Edward R. Gallagher, who was restored in rank to chief by President Donald Trump on Friday.

The four SEALs were to be notified of the review on Wednesday, according to the officials, who are not authorized to speak on the record.

Gallagher was acquitted of most charges he faced, including that he stabbed a wounded Islamic State fighter in his care and shot unarmed Iraq civilians while deployed in 2017. He was convicted of one count of posing with the fighter's corpse.

Portier was charged in the probe and MacNeil and Breisch were witnesses and testified in Gallagher's court-martial.

The reviews, officially called Navy Classification Reviews, are administrative actions by the command to determine if service members still qualify to remain in their current positions — in this case, as Navy SEALs.

SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 5



Gallagher

## RELATED

■ Envoy Volker denies pushing for Biden probe

■ Army assisting Lt. Col. Vindman in wake of public testimony

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MILITARY

# USAF Arctic survival kit surprises testers

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

A cold-weather survival kit under development at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, was designed to keep F-35A Lightning II pilots alive at 40 degrees below zero.

Thanks to a thermometer glitch, the kit surprised its testers on Nov. 5 by keeping subjects reasonably warm for six hours in temperatures that dropped below minus 65, said Tech. Sgt. Garrett Wright, operations noncommissioned officer for the Arctic Survival School, 66th Training Squadron, Detachment 1.

One of the four test subjects, Lt. Col. James Christensen, a pilot and commander of the 356th Fighter Squadron at Eielson, reviewed the kit in an email Wednesday to Stars and Stripes.

"This would enable pilots to survive for hours while awaiting rescue," he wrote. "However, I was never really warm or comfortable in that environment with this gear. I still had cold legs, feet and face, and the hands were a problem throughout the test. It will keep you alive, but not comfortable. Don't touch anything



BEAUX HEBERT/U.S. Air Force

**U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Garrett Wright, left, the 66th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, Arctic Survival School noncommissioned officer in charge of operations, monitors Lt. Col. James Christensen, 356th Fighter Squadron commander, in an F-35A Lightning II survival kit test in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Nov. 5.**

metal at that temperature!"

The test was successful, but the Air Force has yet to decide whether to include the new survival kit on board the stealth fighters when they arrive at the reactivated 356th in 2020.

Airmen at the Eielson survival school created the kit after the Air Force discovered the equipment in older fighters like the F-16 Fighting Falcon would not fit underneath the F-35A's ejection seat, Wright said by phone Wednesday. He began working on the project 1½ half years ago.

"I quickly realized that it was about two-thirds the size of the kit

used for aircraft like the F-16," he said. "The sleeping bag would not fit under the ejection seat, so we needed something else that would fit and allow pilots to survive."

The sleeping bag was the major struggle for the team, because, according to Wright, the best bags are filled with down, which do not retain their insulation properties very well after they have been vacuum sealed.

The team opted for a system by Wiggy Industries of Grand Junction, Colo., that incorporates a synthetic insulating fiber called Lamilite into a poncho and pants that can be converted into a sleep-

ing bag. According to the company website, Lamilite does not lose its ability to "re-loft" even after being vacuum packed.

The new kit also includes a raft that can be used as a shelter, wool mittens, six hand warmers that last 12 hours each, flares, a survival beacon, a space blanket and a Leatherman multitool, Wright said.

The kit also includes a short saw and redesigned shovel that would fit the cramped space. The saw and shovel are used to build snow shelters.

"The system we tested has a lot of individual components to

put on," Christensen said in his email. "It was difficult with my cold hands to get all of the gear on in a timely manner, but after everything was on, the system provided excellent protection."

"By using all of the pilot cold weather clothing, plus the survival system and the one-man life raft, I could build a cocoon of warm air surrounding my body," he said.

The squadron commander recalled the chilling details of the survival test, which took place in test chambers at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"Any piece of exposed skin began to ache immediately," Christensen wrote in his email. "Within 30 seconds, the fingers would feel pain and within 90 seconds they would go numb. I would have to stop working to warm them up again. I was very careful to protect the nose and cheeks from exposure as well."

The system was designed for temperatures around minus 40, but a fluke at the test facility brought the temperature below minus 65, Wright said.

About five hours into the test, while taking digital temperature readings and checking on the test subjects, Wright said he felt something was off and asked the facility staff for a mercury thermometer.

His digital thermometer indicated minus 40 in the colder chamber, but after five minutes the mercury thermometer dropped below minus 65. He said the team knew for sure the kit would function beyond its intended parameters.

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## Correction

A story published in Tuesday's Stars and Stripes about survivors and victims' families suing over the collision of the destroyer USS Fitzgerald should have said the lawsuits were filed in Louisiana's Eastern District Court.

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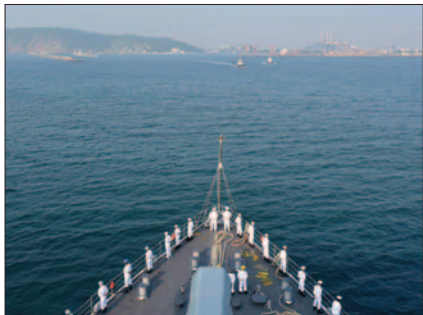
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# MILITARY



JULIAN TURNER/U.S. Navy

Sailors aboard the dock landing ship USS Germantown man the rails as the ship pulls into Visakhapatnam, India, as part of exercise Tiger Triumph on Nov. 13.

## ‘A logical step’ US Marines, Indian military build ties in first Tiger Triumph exercise

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marines and sailors are in eastern India for the inaugural Tiger Triumph humanitarian exercise, a drill that U.S. officials and analysts say is part of a growing partnership in a region where China is increasingly active.

Exercise organizers said Tiger Triumph is the first drill of its kind to include the U.S. military and all three of India's armed services.

On Wednesday, the Marines built a humanitarian relief camp as part of a simulated response to a natural disaster, said Marine 1st Lt. Tori Sharpe, a spokeswoman for the exercise.

The nine-day exercise, which wraps up Thursday, brought together more 500 U.S. Marines and sailors, and 1,200 Indian sailors, soldiers and airmen. The Marines traveled from Okinawa to Vishakhapatnam, India, where the drills kicked off Nov. 13, Sharpe said.

The exercise, which kicked off with the arrival of the dock landing ship USS Germantown, comes at a time when China is gaining influence in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. policymakers view India as an ally in balancing Chinese ambitions.

Cpl. Christian Salvaggio of the 3rd Marine Division said his platoon mixed in with an Indian army platoon. Service members from both countries were able to train, hang out, and play soccer and volleyball, he said.

At sea, Salvaggio rode on the INS Jalashwa, a landing platform dock, as both forces sailed about 100 miles south to the city of Kakinada.

After arriving, Salvaggio's platoon rode to the beach aboard an Indian landing craft.

"It's a very cool experience, a

lot more room than we're used to, but it was a lot faster as well," Salvaggio said.

After landing, the two forces built a field hospital and brought supplies ashore, Sharpe said.

The exercise mimicked disasters occurring in areas where security was problematic.

"We've brought weapons ashore, but (the exercise) is to focus on helping a population affected by a natural disaster," said Lt. Col. Dana S. Demer, the Marine task force commander.

Units went out on patrols, where they found actors who portrayed displaced civilians, Sharpe said. After moving them to the field hospital, troops from both countries called in a helicopter to evacuate the victims.

While the U.S. and India have trained together for decades, American diplomats said they hope Tiger Triumph will enhance military-to-military relations between the two nations.

"Military collaboration between India and the United States is a result of growing, high-level trust and consistent effort to broaden the ways in which we can work together," U.S. Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster said in a statement.

The U.S. and India have grown closer on defense issues, having signed several agreements in recent years, said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia program at the Washington, D.C.-based Wilson Center.

This includes the designation in 2016 of India as a major defense partner and the sale of U.S.-made Apache attack helicopters to the nation.

"The Tiger Triumph exercise is a logical step for the U.S.-India relationship," Kugelman said.

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JACOB HANCOCK/U.S. Navy

U.S. Marines participate in assault amphibious vehicle drills aboard the USS Germantown while underway in the Bay of Bengal, India, during exercise Tiger Triumph on Monday.



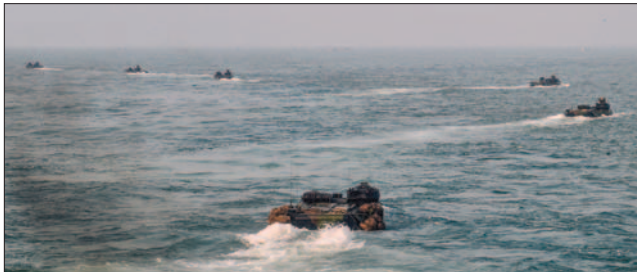
TONI BURTON/U.S. Navy

Indian navy's amphibious warfare ship INS Airavat sails in the Bay of Bengal, India, during exercise Tiger Triumph on Sunday.



TONI BURTON/U.S. Navy

A landing craft assigned to Naval Beach Unit 7 transits from the dock landing ship USS Germantown during the exercise Sunday.



Above: U.S. assault amphibious vehicles depart the dock landing ship USS Germantown for a beach landing during exercise Tiger Triumph on Tuesday. Left: Boatswain's mates prepare to launch a landing craft from the USS Germantown during exercise Tiger Triumph on Sunday.

PHOTOS BY TONI BURTON  
U.S. Navy



## MILITARY

# Ruling threatens cases against Marines arrested at formation

By JULIE WATSON  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Marine Corps prosecutors were scrambling Tuesday to save numerous cases tied to a human smuggling investigation after a military judge ruled it was illegal for the military to arrest the Marines during a morning battalion formation and accuse them in front of their peers.

Maj. Kendra Motz said prosecutors were meeting at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to explore their options, but she did not know what they were considering.

The judge, Marine Col. Stephen Keane, gave prosecutors until Monday to offer a way to remedy the situation.

When ruling Friday, Keane agreed with defense attorneys who said the command violated the rights of the defendants when they pulled 16 Marines out of a battalion formation of 800 troops at Camp Pendleton on July 25 and accused them of the crimes in front of their unit.

The unit's leaders called them "a cancer" and "bad Marines,"

defense attorneys said.

In the end, only 10 of those in the formation were charged with various crimes ranging from the distribution of LSD, stealing smoke grenades to illegally transporting immigrants to help a smuggling operation, according to charge sheets.

Two Marines were arrested near the U.S.-Mexico border after being stopped by the Border Patrol and found to have immigrants in their car, according to court documents. Another service member was arrested, but not during the formation.

Keane said the public display of the arrests amounted to unlawful command influence.

The judge said that if the prosecution cannot remedy the situation, the court would be left with only one option. Defense attorneys for some of the Marines have asked for charges to be dismissed. They say otherwise it will be difficult to find an impartial jury pool.

"I don't know how they can un-ring the bell," said defense attorney Bethany Payton-O'Brien, who is asking that the charges be dismissed against her client, Cpl.

Trenton Elliot, 27, citing unlawful command influence.

The Marines Corps filmed the arrests, and part of the video was later obtained by the San Diego Union-Tribune.

A battalion commander and a sergeant major can be heard on the video calling the detained "bad Marines" and "a cancer," Payton-O'Brien said.

"The Marine Corps that day essentially announced to the world that they are guilty," she said. "How do we now go and defend them?"

The Marine Corps said in a statement after the newspaper reported on the video that it was made to document the arrests "in an unbiased, non-editorialized manner."

The video is for official use only and would not be released, Motz said. Prosecutors declined to be interviewed, saying they do not comment on pending cases.

The arrests came after two Marines were stopped by the U.S. Border Patrol about 7 miles north of the border on July 3. Three Mexican migrants who came into the country illegally were sitting in the back seat of the black BMW



LENNY IONELLI/AP

**A military judge ruled last week that it was illegal to arrest Marines during a morning formation this summer at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., whose main gate is seen above.**

driven by one of the Marines, according to the federal complaint.

The three migrants told authorities that they were from Mexico and had agreed to pay \$8,000 to be smuggled into the United States, documents say.

U.S. Border Patrol officials say smuggling rings have been luring U.S. troops, police officers, Border Patrol agents and others to work for them as drivers — a crucial component of moving migrants further into the United States once smugglers get them over the border from Mexico.

None of the Marines are accused of bringing immigrants across the border.

Elliot was charged with the illegal transportation of immigrants within the United States, position of drug paraphernalia, and larceny of a government training pistol and small rounds, Payton-O'Brien said.

He was working out a plea deal with prosecutors when defense lawyers obtained the video. When the motion was filed alleging unlawful command influence, the prosecution withdrew from the agreement, Payton-O'Brien said.

The 13 cases are being handled separately. Experts say lawyers representing the 10 Marines arrested during the battalion formation could use the ruling to argue that their cases should be dismissed.

"Having been a judge, I know courts are not eager to dismiss a case. But the law is the law, and if the judge is unsatisfied with the remedies that result from his warning, then he is going to have little choice than to dismiss the charges," said Gary Solis, a former Marine Corps prosecutor and military judge who teaches law at Georgetown University.

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## MILITARY

# Review: Lawyer for pardoned SEAL calls review an act of insubordination

## FROM FRONT PAGE

SEALs wear iconic gold insignia — often called “tridents” — on their uniforms.

The reviews are being held under orders from the commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, Rear Adm. Collin Green.

The action is seen by some to be a rebuke of Trump's recent decisions.

Trump has intervened three times in the Gallagher case — once to release him from the Miramar brig before trial, in August when Trump stripped prosecutors of awards they received after Gallagher's trial, and again Friday when Trump overruled a jury's sentence that reduced Gallagher in rank by one pay grade.

One of Gallagher's defense attorneys, Timothy Parlatore, said Green's action launching the review was “outright insubordination” of Trump's authority as commander-in-chief.

“There's no purpose to this other than to disrespect the president of the United States and retaliate against Eddie Gallagher,” Parlatore said when reached by phone Tuesday. “Adm. Green is daring the president to fire him.”

According to Parlatore, the decision has already been made to pull the tridents of the SEALs.

Parlatore filed an inspector general complaint Tuesday ac-



U.S. Navy

**The Navy Special Warfare Trident insignia is worn by qualified U.S. Navy SEALs. Four SEALs are facing possible loss of their Tridents after their legal cases are reviewed, a lawyer for one of them said.**

cusing Naval Special Warfare commander, Rear Adm. Collin Green, of insubordination for defying Trump. The Associated Press reported. Parlatore said Green made his intentions clear at a staff meeting Monday.

Navy Capt. Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman for the SEALs, would not comment on that but emailed the following statement to the Union-Tribune Tuesday:

“We have implemented the president's order to restore Chief Gallagher's paygrade,” Lawrence said in the email.

“Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command is responsible

for the Naval Special Warfare Force. He remains focused on delivering a capable, ready, and lethal maritime special operations force in support of national security objectives, which includes assessing the suitability of any member of his force via administrative processes.”

In October, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday affirmed the jury's guilty verdict on the single count in the Gallagher case and upheld its ruling to reduce the SEAL in rank from E-7 to E-6 for appearing in the photo with the deceased ISIS fighter.

A spokesman for Gilday said in

an email Tuesday that the CNO supported Green.

“Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Gilday, supports his commanders in executing their roles, to include Rear Adm. Green,” Cmdr. Nathan Christensen said.

He declined to comment specifically on the trident reviews.

Both Gallagher and Portier were charged in a sweeping war crimes probe last year after Gallagher was reported by fellow SEALs for allegedly stabbing a wounded captured ISIS fighter to death. Portier was charged with facilitating a cover-up of the killing and with ordering his men to pose for a photo with the corpse.

Gallagher's prosecution was bogged-down with allegations of prosecutor misconduct. Eventually the lead prosecutor, Cmdr. Chris Czaplak, was removed from the case weeks before trial when the judge ruled Czaplak had violated Gallagher's rights by attempting to track defense attorney emails.

During the trial, a Navy SEAL medic who was on the scene in Iraq testified that he — not Gallagher — killed the fighter, after Gallagher had stabbed the fighter.

Portier's case never went to trial. In August, then-CNO Adm. John Richardson dismissed all

charges against Portier.

Navy officials did not comment on why the four are undergoing review.

During their investigation of Gallagher, NCIS agents found evidence that the SEAL had abused controlled substances; however, initial drug charges drafted against Gallagher were dropped before his January arraignment.

Portier, who was the commander of Gallagher's platoon in Iraq, was accused of ordering his men to pose for a photo with the body of the deceased fighter. However, as his attorney frequently noted, he did not appear in any photos himself.

MacNeil, who testified under a grant of immunity at Gallagher's trial, admitted to drinking alcohol with enlisted SEALs while deployed to Iraq.

Breisch, who was the SEAL troop commander during the 2017 deployment, denied knowledge of the allegations against Gallagher until April 2018 — contradicting testimony of two other SEALs who said he was aware of the allegations as early as October 2017.

In August, Green ordered an ethics review of all the SEALs and Naval Special Warfare, citing a “good order and discipline” problem.

# Happy Thanksgiving

## Buffet Dinners with Yokosuka MWR

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# 2 US service members killed in helo crash

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. service members were killed in a helicopter crash Wednesday in Afghanistan, a statement from U.S. Forces Afghanistan said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, but “preliminary reports do not indicate it was caused by enemy fire,” the statement said.

Neither service member was identified, pending family notification.

The crash took place in Charkh district

of Logar province, in the country's east, two Afghan officials and a Taliban spokesman said.

“The plane crashed due to technical error,” said Fawad Aman, Afghan Defense Ministry deputy spokesman.

No Afghan service members were killed in the crash, Aman said.

The crash destroyed the helicopter, which was participating in a night raid, said Deedar Lawang, Logar province spokesman.

The Taliban in a statement claimed they shot down the aircraft and killed 54 Af-

ghan and American soldiers. The Taliban are known to exaggerate their claims.

Aman said the Taliban statement is false and that the militants did not shoot down the helicopter.

There have been 19 U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan in 2019, the deadliest year for American troops in the country since international combat operations ended in late 2014.

Most of the 20,000 international troops now in the country are focused on training and advising Afghan security forces, with a smaller contingent taking part in a coun-

terterrorism mission.

The U.S. military deaths Wednesday are the first reported in Afghanistan since Sept. 16, when Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Griffin, 41, was killed by small-arms fire during combat in central Wardak province.

Griffin, a Special Forces communications sergeant, was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3

## Bombs, missiles are falling at record pace in Afghan War

Tom Vanden Brook  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — As American ground forces in Afghanistan shrink, U.S. and allied warplanes are dropping bombs and firing missiles at insurgent targets at a record pace in the 18-year-long war.

The spike in firepower coincides with a Trump administration policy, dating to 2016, that gives military commanders greater authority to attack Taliban and Islamic State militants in Afghanistan.

“The logic is that the Taliban may be more likely to agree to a peace deal acceptable to the United States and the Afghan government if the Taliban believe they can’t win the war in Afghanistan,” said Seth Jones, a defense analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and former adviser to the special operations commander in Afghanistan.

“Consequently, airstrikes and ground operations are a way to raise the costs for the Taliban of continuing to fight,” he said.

But negotiations with insurgents have broken off.

From Jan. 1 through October, U.S.-led forces have used 6,208 missiles and bombs in Afghanistan. That compares with 5,982 for the same period in 2018, which saw the most airstrikes of any year since the Taliban were toppled in 2001.

President Donald Trump has pushed for a smaller U.S. troop



BENJAMIN GONSER/U.S. Air Force

**Munitions systems airmen conduct a bomb build at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in 2017. U.S. and coalition allies have been dropping bombs on and firing missiles at insurgent targets at a record pace.**

presence in Afghanistan — a reduction to 8,600, one of the lowest points in the history of the war. In 2011, the number of U.S. troops swelled to nearly 100,000 and dipped to 8,300 in 2017.

It’s unclear whether the increased reliance on air power will work, Jones said.

“The Taliban does not appear to be coerced and still believes it can win on the battlefield,” he said. “In fact, the Taliban appears to be emboldened with U.S. policymakers, including President Trump, who have publicly noted a desire to get the U.S. out of Afghanistan and stop the ‘endless wars.’”

Trump suspended peace talks

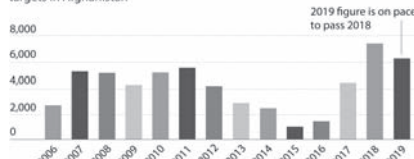
in September after the Taliban claimed credit for an attack in Kabul that killed a U.S. soldier.

The increase in bombing stems from the need to support the operations of Afghan security forces against the Taliban and other extremist groups and to defend against their attacks on Afghan society, said Army Maj. Beth Riordan, a spokeswoman for U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in Afghanistan.

“All of our operations in Afghanistan support our mission to assist the Afghan government and its security forces’ effort to maintain security and stability in the country and prevent the coun-

### Bombings increase in Afghanistan

Bombs dropped and missiles fired by U.S. and coalition aircraft on insurgent targets in Afghanistan



NOTE: 2019 figure is based on airstrikes through October. SOURCES: U.S. Air Force Central Command, USA Today

ANOREA VILLAR/Stars and Stripes

try from becoming a safe haven for terrorism,” Riordan said.

In 2016, Pentagon officials gave greater authority to the commander in Afghanistan to unleash more airstrikes. That change followed a resurgence in Taliban activity.

At the time, Pentagon officials said increased bombing could trigger “catastrophic success” in support of Afghan troops. Bombing runs increased that year and more than tripled in 2017.

More bombing means greater risk for civilians.

An airstrike on several drug labs in May killed or wounded 39 civilians, including 17 working in the labs, according to a U.N. investigation. The United Nations also cited “reliable” reports of an additional 37 civilians killed

or wounded in the raids, most of them women and children. The U.S. command in Kabul disputed the findings, saying those killed were Taliban operatives.

“Preventing civilian casualties remains a top priority for U.S. forces in Afghanistan and our allies and partners,” Riordan said. “Our forces support the Afghan government’s efforts to protect its civilian population, and we take extraordinary measures to minimize and mitigate civilian casualties and, further, to investigate all reports of civilian casualties.”

The longest war in U.S. history has claimed the lives of more than 2,400 U.S. troops and tens of thousands of Afghan civilians, security forces and Taliban militants. It has cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$750 billion.

## Pentagon audit finds US pullout from Syria strengthens terrorists

By JOHN M. DONNELLY  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The sudden departure of most U.S. troops from northeastern Syria in early October has strengthened Islamic State in that country despite the U.S. military’s recent killing of the group’s leader, according to a new Pentagon assessment.

ISIS is reconstituting its forces and readying new plans for terrorist attacks in the wake of the U.S. troop withdrawal and Turkey’s subsequent invasion of Syria, and other forces in the area are unlikely to prioritize counterterrorism as the U.S. military did, according to an intelligence report summarized in a Pentagon audit

published Tuesday.

The audit was produced by Glenn Fine, who is the lead Defense Department inspector general for overseeing U.S. military operations in Syria and Iraq.

Fine’s assessment stands in contrast to President Donald Trump’s recent tweets and statements depicting the situation in Syria as improved.

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., issued a statement Tuesday saying the new intelligence assessment “confirms many of our worst fears: that the president’s precipitous withdrawal of troops from northern Syria has given ISIS a lifeline.”

U.S. troops pulled back from the Syria-Turkey border in early October. Fewer

than 1,000 of them remain and are either guarding oil fields in the north or stationed at a southern outpost called Al Tanf.

The Defense Intelligence Agency told Fine that ISIS is “likely to exploit the reduction in counterterrorism pressure to reconstitute its operations in Syria and expand its ability to conduct transnational attacks,” he wrote. “The DIA also stated that absent counterterrorism pressure, ISIS would likely have more freedom to build clandestine networks.”

The intelligence agency also told Fine that ISIS “probably will attempt to free” ISIS members detained in prisons in Syria. The terrorist group will likely have the “time and space” to target the West and provide support to its global branches and

networks, Fine wrote.

In the longer term, he said, ISIS will probably seek to “regain control of some Syrian population centers and expand its global footprint.”

The death of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Oct. 26 “would likely have little effect on the ability of ISIS to reconstitute,” Fine’s report said. The report also found that at least 215,000 people have been displaced from their homes by Turkey’s invasion in early October.

Fine reports publicly on the situation in Iraq and Syria on a quarterly basis. The reports reflect his views as well as those of the inspectors general for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

# MILITARY

## Germany: Security panel can help NATO

Associated Press

BRUSSELS—Germany sought Wednesday to ease French worries about NATO by offering to set up a group of experts to examine the alliance's security challenges after President Emmanuel Macron lamented the "brain death" of the military organization.

Macron's public criticism of NATO—notably, a perceived lack of U.S. leadership, concerns about an unpredictable Turkey since it invaded northern Syria without warning its allies, and the need for Europe to take on more security responsibilities—has shaken the alliance.

At a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels, Germany's Heiko Maas said that the 29-nation trans-Atlantic alliance is "Europe's life insurance and we want it to remain so." He said the aim should be to prevent "breakaway tendencies" within NATO.

To ensure that doesn't happen, Maas told reporters, the "political arm" of NATO must be strengthened.

"We should get advice from experts, from people who understand these issues," he said.

Maas declined to elaborate or comment on who might be part of this expert commission, saying



FRANCISCO SECIA/AP

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, shakes hands with his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, during a NATO meeting Wednesday in Brussels. Critical comments from the French president about NATO spurred Germany's foreign minister to suggest creation of a panel of experts to look at the alliance's security challenges.**

he was more interested in how Germany's partners react to the proposal. France's response to the offer should indicate whether NATO's internal differences can quickly be papered over.

Macron's choice of words was rejected as "drastic" by German Chancellor Angela Merkel the day after they were published in The Economist magazine. Senior U.S. and European officials have since piled on, leaving France feeling isolated for speaking out.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg heads to Paris next week for talks with Macron, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 28. On the eve of the Brussels meeting, Stoltenberg said the best way to resolve differences "is to sit down and to discuss them and to fully understand the messages and the

motivations."

Asked Wednesday why Macron's choice has angered allies or might hurt NATO, Stoltenberg said, without mentioning France, that "there is no way to deny that there are disagreements on issues like trade, like climate change, the Iran nuclear deal and also simply on how to deal with the situation in northern Syria."

But he added, "We have to overcome these disagreements, because it is so essential both for Europe and the United States that we stand united."

The rift bodes ill for a Dec. 3-4 summit of NATO leaders in London, where President Donald Trump is expected to once again demand that the Europeans and Canada step up defense spending.

## EUCOM restricts troops' travel to parts of Israel

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. European Command has issued an order restricting travel to Israel's West Bank, which includes the Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, citing security concerns after the U.S. reversed its policy on Israeli settlements.

Travel is restricted to the whole of the West Bank, including Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem's Old City, "until further notice," EUCOM said in a memo distributed to military units around Europe on Tuesday.

The administrative message, sent by EUCOM's plans and operations center, warned of "potential unrest due to the United States' change in policy toward settlements in the West Bank."

On Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reversed long-standing U.S. policy that regarded Israeli settlements in the West Bank as inconsistent with international law.

"After carefully studying all sides of the legal debate ... the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not, per se, inconsistent with international law," Pompeo said.

Instead, Pompeo said the U.S. position is to take "no view on the legal status of any individual settlement."

Israel attracts visitors from around the world, including U.S. troops stationed in Europe and the Middle East, particularly around the Christmas season. Christians believe Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, and the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem is a holy site for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Travel restrictions for U.S. government personnel to places such as Bethlehem and Jericho are not uncommon and have been put in place in the past during times of tension.

The travel ban announced Tuesday was in line with recent actions taken by the U.S. Embassy in Israel, EUCOM said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the change in U.S. policy over the settlements, but the European Union said it will continue to regard settlements in the occupied West Bank as illegal.

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## Groups seek funding boost for DPAA

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Leaders of organizations that work closely with the Pentagon agency charged with recovering and identifying the remains of troops missing from overseas battles blasted its funding as insufficient.

The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency should receive additional funding to increase its capacity to locate, recover and ultimately identify the nearly 82,000 Americans missing from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, top officials with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the nonprofit History Flight and the National League of POW/MIA Families told lawmakers Tuesday. The officials were testifying before the House Oversight and Reform Committee's subpanel on national security.

"Land of the free, home of the brave, yet 81,864 missing Americans are buried in unmarked graves," said Mark Noah, the chief executive officer of History Flight, an organization that works with the DPAA to recover missing remains of Americans. "Every government building, state capital and post office flies the POW/MIA flag, yet our great country is yet to allocate resources equal to the need to recover the missing from America's wars of the 20th century."

Noah told lawmakers that members of his organization had raised and contributed more than \$3.5 million to fund recovery efforts, which have not been reimbursed by the Defense Department. Kelly McKeague, the director of the DPAA, said such partnerships with private organizations have saved

the agency some \$32 million in recent years as the agency has become busier.

B.J. Lawrence, the executive director of the VFW in Washington, urged Congress to add funding to increase efforts to recover missing individuals from North Korean soil.

In fiscal year 2019, the DPAA identified remains of 218 individuals, the most that it has ever identified in a single year. The increase includes 41 individuals identified from 55 cases of remains provided to the United States by North Korea. McKeague believes the potential exists for up to 150 more to be named eventually.

Last year, the DPAA's budget was about \$160 million. In its proposed fiscal year 2020 budget, the Pentagon proposed cutting the DPAA's funding to about \$145 million, but several lawmakers on Tuesday said they supported more funding. Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., the chairman of the national security subcommittee, said he was aware of bipartisan support to boost DPAA funding.

McKeague said additional funding would help the organization expand its team of scientists working on DNA identification in the agency's Hawaii lab as well as provide the agency new technology that could help it locate difficult-to-find remains and expand its private-public partnerships.

McKeague plans for the DPAA to have the capacity to identify 350 missing troops by 2025, but he said the 600-person agency can expect to identify only 200 to 250 in a year with its current funding.

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## NATION

## Sondland: Ambassador testifies 'everyone was in the loop'

## FROM FRONT PAGE

investigate political rival Joe Biden. He also said he kept Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other top administration officials aware of his dealings with Ukraine on the investigations Trump sought. Sondland said he specifically told Vice President Mike Pence he "had concerns" that U.S. military aid to Ukraine "had become tied" to the investigations.

"Everyone was in the loop," Sondland testified in opening remarks. "It was no secret."

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine, casting the impeachment inquiry as a politically motivated effort to push him from office. Speaking to reporters outside the White House on Wednesday, he said he wanted nothing from the Ukrainians and did not seek a quid pro quo. He also discredited himself from Sondland, a major donor to his inauguration.

"I don't know him very well. I have not spoken to him much," Trump said, speaking from notes on the hearing, without making a black marker.

The impeachment inquiry focuses significantly on allegations that Trump sought investigations of former Vice President Biden and his son — and the discredited idea that Ukraine rather than Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election — in return for the badly needed military aid for Ukraine and the White House visit.

In Moscow on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was pleased that the "political battles" in Washington had overtaken the Russia allegations, which are supported by the U.S. intelligence agencies.

"Thank God no one is accusing us of interfering in the U.S. elections anymore," Putin said. "Now they're accusing Ukraine."

Sondland said that conditions on any potential Ukraine meeting at the White House started as "generic" but "more specific items got added to the menu including Burisma and 2016 election meddling." Burisma is the Ukrainian gas company where Joe Biden's son, Hunter, served on the board. And, he added, "the server," the hacked Democratic computer system.

"I know that members of this committee have frequently framed these complicated issues in the form of a simple question: Was there a quid pro quo? As I testified previously, with regard to the requested White House call and White House meeting, the answer is yes," he said.

Sondland said he didn't know at the time that Burisma was linked to the Bidens but has since come to understand that — and that the military aid also hinged on the investigations.

"President Trump never told me directly that the aid was conditioned on meetings," he testified. "The only thing we got directly from Giuliani was that the Burisma and 2016 election were conditioned on the White House meeting. ... The aid was



DOUG MILLS, POOL/AP

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, center, sits before the House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday.

## Pence aide denies discussion of link in Ukraine aid holdup

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top aide to Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that a conversation described by U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland about a link between military aid for Ukraine and investigations "never happened."

Sondland testified Wednesday that he spoke with Pence before a Sept. 1 meeting with Ukrainian officials and that "I had concerns that the delay in aid had become tied to the issue of investigations."

But Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, denied in a statement that Pence spoke to Sondland "about investigating the Bidens, Burisma, or the conditional release of financial aid to Ukraine based upon potential investigations," referencing the gas company where Joe Biden's son, Hunter, served on the board.

Short added that Sondland was "never alone" with Pence during the Sept. 1 trip to Poland.

"This alleged discussion recalled by Ambassador Sondland never happened," Short said.

The House impeachment inquiry focuses significantly on allegations that President Donald Trump sought investigations of Biden and his son — and the discredited idea that Ukraine rather than Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election — in return for the badly needed military aid as well as a White House visit. Trump has denied doing anything wrong.

Pence aides have previously maintained that the vice president was unaware of efforts to push Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to release a statement announcing investigations. Pence has said no such push came up during his September meeting with Zelenskyy in Warsaw, even as the leaders discussed the U.S. military aid that was under review.

Pence press secretary Katie Waldman said Pence was also unaware of the "brief pull-aside conversation" that Sondland reported having with a top aide to Zelenskyy following the Pence-Zelenskyy meeting. Sondland has said he told Andriy Yermak that the "resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks."

the directions of the president."

The son of immigrants who he said escaped Europe during the Holocaust, Sondland described himself as a "lifelong Republican" who has worked with officials from both parties, including Biden.

Dubbed one of the "three amigos" pursuing Ukraine policy, Sondland is disputing that they were running some "rogue" operation outside official U.S. policy.

He produced emails and texts showing he, former special envoy Kurt Volker and Energy Secretary Rick Perry kept Pompeo and others apprised of their activity. One message from Volker said, "Spoke w Rudy per guidance from S." He said, "S means the secretary of state."

He said the State Department "was aware that a commitment to investigations was among the issues we were pursuing."

Democratic Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff of California said, "The knowledge of this scheme was far and wide."

Schiff warned Pompeo and other administration officials who are refusing to turn over documents and testimony to the committee "they do so at their own peril." He said obstruction of Congress was included in articles of impeachment during Watergate.

The top Republican on the committee, Devin Nunes, of California, decried the inquiry and told the ambassador, "Mr. Sondland, you are here to be smeared."

Nunes renewed his demand to hear from the still-anonymous whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy led the House to open the impeachment inquiry.

my own personal guess ... two plus two equals four."

Sondland's hours of testimony didn't appear to sway Trump's GOP allies in the Senate.

Mike Braun, of Indiana, said the president's actions "may not be appropriate, but this is the question: Does it rise to the level of impeachment? And it's a totally different issue and none of this has."

"I'm pretty certain that's what most of my cohorts in the Senate are thinking and I know that's what Hoosiers are thinking — and most of middle America."

Sondland, a wealthy hotelier and Trump donor, has emerged as a central figure in an intense week in the impeachment probe that has featured nine witnesses testifying over three days. Both Democrats and Republicans were uncertain about what Sondland would testify to, given that he had already clarified parts of his initial private deposition before lawmakers.

Sondland appeared prepared to fend off scrutiny over the way his testimony has shifted in closed-door settings, saying "my memory has not been perfect."

He said the State Department left him without access to emails, call records and other documents he needed in the inquiry.

Republicans called his account "the trifecta of unreliability."

"Still, he did produce new emails and text messages to bolster his assertion that others in the administration were aware of the investigations he was pursuing for Trump from Ukraine.

Sondland insisted, twice, that he was "adamantly opposed to any suspension of aid" for Ukraine. "I was acting in good faith. As a presidential appointee, I followed

## NATION

# Envoy denies role in pushing for Biden probe

By BILLY HOUSE,  
LAURA LITVAN  
AND NICK WADHAMS  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former envoy to Ukraine said he wasn't initially aware of attempts to prod that country into investigating Joe Biden but came to realize that the anti-corruption efforts being demanded by the administration meant probes involving the former vice president.

Kurt Volker, who until recently was the special U.S. envoy to Ukraine, testified to the House committee conducting an impeachment inquiry that he wasn't involved in key discussions and meetings that touched on Biden and on his son, Hunter's, participation on the board of Ukrainian energy company Burisma Holdings.

"I did not know that President Trump or others had raised Vice President Biden with the Ukrainians, or had conflated the investigation of possible Ukrainian corruption with investigation of the former vice president," Volker said. "In hindsight, I now understand that others saw the idea of investigating possible corruption involving the Ukrainian company, 'Burisma,' as equivalent to investigating former Vice President Biden."

Volker testified with former National Security Council official Tim Morrison, who was on the July call that has become central to the investigation of the president being led by House Democrats.

Morrison said Ukraine is on the front line facing Russian aggression and deserves the full, bipartisan support of the U.S. He said he worried at the time of Trump's July 25 call that a disclosure of its contents would have a negative effect in Washington and on support for Ukraine.

"My fears have been realized,"

## Army helping Vindman deal with newfound public scrutiny

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army confirmed Tuesday that the service is providing assistance to Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman to help him with the attention caused by his testimony in the ongoing congressional impeachment hearings on President Donald Trump.

Col. Kathy Turner, an Army spokeswoman, did not say in a statement Tuesday what specific assistance the Army is providing to Vindman and his family.

Vindman is serving on the White House's National Security Council as the principal adviser on Ukraine. He is a career Army officer and deployed to Iraq, where he received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in an improvised explosive device attack. Vindman's public testimony Tuesday before the House Intelligence Committee focused on what he heard during Trump's phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on July 25.

During the call, Trump requested that Zelenskyy start an investigation into 2020 Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President

Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, regarding Hunter Biden's work at the Ukrainian company Burisma Holdings. He also asked Zelenskyy to look into possible Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

The public and media attention toward Vindman and his work on the National Security Council has increased since his first testimony behind closed doors with impeachment investigators in October. Citing U.S. officials, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the Army is prepared to move Vindman and his family to a local unnamed military base if they believe they are in physical danger. The U.S. officials also said the Army has been monitoring Vindman and his family "around the clock to make sure there aren't any imminent threats."

But the Army "would neither confirm nor deny any safety or security measures taken on behalf of an individual," Turner said in the statement. "However, as we would with any soldier, the Army will work with civilian authorities to ensure that he and his family are properly protected."

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Morrison said.

Three days of hearings this week will provide lawmakers and the public with testimony from nine witnesses who have firsthand accounts of events surrounding the question of whether Trump and his allies tried to leverage U.S. aid and a White House visit for Zelenskyy in exchange for Ukraine opening investigations involving Biden, which would benefit the president politically.

Earlier Tuesday, a decorated U.S. Army officer who works at the White House and a State Department official both said Trump's conversation with Ukraine's leader was an unusual and inappropriate attempt to get

another nation to launch a politically motivated investigation.

Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman said the Trump-Zelenskyy call so alarmed him that he reported it through the administration's legal channels.

"Without hesitation, I knew that I had to report this to the White House counsel," Vindman testified.

Jennifer Williams, a State Department employee assigned to Vice President Mike Pence's office, said she found Trump's

conversation unusual "because, in contrast to other presidential calls I had observed, it involved discussion of what appeared to be a domestic political matter."

Volker is a crucial witness for Democrats and Republicans in the impeachment inquiry. He's a career government foreign policy official who was recruited early in the Trump administration to handle Ukraine policy.

But he also became one of three officials — along with Energy Secretary Rick Perry and U.S. Am-

bassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland — delegated by some in the White House to conduct a back-channel effort on Ukraine that also involved Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer.

Volker's testimony offered details for both sides to latch onto. Republicans will be encouraged that he said he had no knowledge of a quid pro quo of the idea of releasing aid in exchange for a promise to investigate the Biden family and the events of 2016.

Yet Volker also denied a central Republican talking point of the impeachment inquiry, arguing that there was no merit to claims that Biden did anything wrong in relation to Ukraine and its former prosecutor.

"I've known former Vice President Biden for some time," Volker said. "I know how he respects the duties of higher office" and he would not operate outside of U.S. interests.

He may provoke some incredulity though with his contention that he never drew a link between demands that Ukraine investigate Giuliani and concerns about the Biden family, even though Giuliani at one point mentioned the allegations against the former vice president.

Morrison testified that he was disappointed by Trump's conversation with Zelenskyy, though not because he thought the president had done anything illegal.

Asking a foreign leader to investigate a domestic political rival is "not what we recommended to the president to discuss," Morrison said. "I was hoping for a more full-throated statement of support from the president" for Ukraine.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Ambassador Kurt Volker, left, former special envoy to Ukraine, and Tim Morrison, a former official at the National Security Council, testify before the House Intelligence Committee on Tuesday.

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LETTERS TO SANTA

## NATION

# House bill looks to stop shutdown in the short-term

By ERICA WERNER  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The House passed a short-term spending bill Tuesday that would avert a government shutdown on Friday, setting up a Christmas showdown over President Donald Trump's border wall that could fall in the midst of impeachment votes against the president.

The legislation, which passed 231 to 192, extends government funding through Dec. 20. It must pass the Senate and be signed by Trump before midnight Thursday. If not, government funding would expire, causing many agencies to begin to shutter operations and furlough staff.

The Senate is expected to act on the legislation ahead of the deadline. A senior administration official said Trump is expected to sign the bill. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Passage of the "continuing resolution" is necessary because lawmakers and the administration have failed to agree on full-year spending bills for the 2020 budget year that began Oct. 1. The government is operating on a stop-gap spending bill that was passed in September but expires Thursday night.

Ahead of the vote, lawmakers of both parties bemoaned their failure to agree on the 12 annual spending bills for 2020 and the need for short-term measures.

"This is an admission of failure; it's a recognition of failure," said Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. But, Hoyer added, "The alternative is shutting down government on midnight of the 21st. That's not an acceptable alternative."

Trump's demands for billions of dollars to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border have emerged as the principal impediment to a broader budget deal. Trump wants \$5 billion for the wall, and Senate Republicans signed off on that figure earlier this year. But House Democrats dedicated no money at all to the wall in spending bills they passed. It remains unclear how — or if — a compromise can be struck.

That makes a government shutdown a real threat when the new funding bill expires Dec. 20, just before Christmas and potentially around the same time the House is voting on articles of impeachment against Trump.

"We have to work out something with the Democrats on the wall, and things maybe related to the wall," said Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala. He said he's seen no willingness to compromise by the White House or House Democrats.

**'The alternative is shutting down government on midnight of the 21st. That's not an acceptable alternative.'**

Rep. Steny Hoyer  
House Majority leader, D-Md.

In an ominous sign of increased partisanship around the spending process, 12 House Republicans voted in favor of the short-term spending bill Tuesday — many fewer than the 76 Republicans who supported the last stop-gap bill. House Republicans voiced various complaints, accusing Democrats of not working in good faith to strike a larger budget deal. Democrats contended that Senate Republicans and the White House were to blame.

During a closed-door House Democratic caucus meeting Tuesday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., sounded pessimistic about prospects for a deal ahead of the Dec. 20 deadline, according to a Democrat in the meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The dispute over the border wall caused a 35-day government shutdown last winter. It ended without Congress giving Trump all the money he wanted for the wall. Ultimately, over bipartisan objections from Congress, Trump declared a national emergency at the border that the White House used to take billions from military construction accounts and direct the money to the wall.

The White House has made clear that if Congress does not approve all the money Trump wants for the wall this time around, he will once again circumvent Congress to pull money from other accounts and direct it to the border.

Despite the dispute over the wall, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said it was imperative for Congress to reach a deal to fully fund the government through the 2020 budget year that ends Sept. 30, 2020. If they don't, budgets for government agencies including the Pentagon, the Department of Health and Human Services and numerous other accounts would continue at current levels. That would mean missing out on billions of dollars in spending increases for the Pentagon and domestic agencies previously agreed to by Congress — an outcome lawmakers of both parties want to avoid.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Former Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, see here last year in Boston, resigned amid investigations into deals to sell her self-published children's books. She was charged with fraud and tax evasion in an 11-count federal indictment unsealed Wednesday.

## Ex-Baltimore mayor faces federal fraud, tax charges

By REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The disgraced former mayor of Baltimore was charged Wednesday with fraud and tax evasion involving sales of her self-published children's books.

An 11-count federal indictment accuses Catherine Pugh of using her "Healthy Holly" children's books to enrich herself, promote her political career and fund her run for mayor.

Federal authorities say Pugh and two city employees double sold her self-published children's books or failed to deliver them to institutions they were purchased for, including Baltimore City Pub-

lic Schools. Pugh then allegedly used the proceeds to fund straw donations to her mayoral campaign and to renovate a house.

The grand jury indicted Pugh on federal charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, seven counts of wire fraud, conspiracy to defraud the United States and two counts of tax evasion.

She's expected to surrender to U.S. Marshals before an initial appearance and arraignment Thursday before U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow in Baltimore.

Also unsealed Wednesday were the guilty pleas of former Baltimore City employees Gary Brown Jr. and Roslyn Wedington.

Both pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax fraud.

"Corrupt public employees rip off the taxpayers and undermine everyone's faith in government," United States Attorney Robert K. Hur said in an announcement of the charges. "Our elected officials must place the interests of the citizens above their own."

Steven Silverman, Pugh's attorney, didn't immediately respond to a phone message and email seeking comment.

Pugh resigned in early May after authorities began probing whether she arranged bulk sales of "Healthy Holly" books to disguise hundreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks.

## Patrick's campaign moves to S. Carolina

By MEG KINNARD AND ERRIN HAINES  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — About a dozen black female small-business owners were gathered in a South Carolina shared workspace Tuesday night for a networking event when they were told the newest 2020 Democratic presidential hopeful, Deval Patrick, would be stopping by to introduce himself.

When Patrick walked into the back of the room mid-meeting, the women turned around as he sheepishly apologized for his tardiness and short stay.

"Don't mind me," he told them.

Launching his bid for president less than three months before the Iowa caucuses, Patrick is betting that he can make his case to a broad coalition of voters, including many who remain undecided or uncommitted to anyone in the crowded field of candidates. To win South Carolina, which holds the first Southern primary of 2020, he would need a base of support from the black voters who comprise roughly two-thirds of the state's Democratic electorate.

"I'm running for president because those values of community, that we have a stake in each other and



MEG KINNARD/AP

Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick speaks with a business owner during a campaign stop Tuesday in Columbia, S.C.

of generational responsibility, I think, are frayed in the country," Patrick said Tuesday night in Columbia. "I come in humbly. ... I want to be a listener."

Arguing that voters are just now beginning to tune in, with the first votes less than 100 days away, Patrick has said he will have visibility when the populace is really paying attention. His late entry, though, makes it that much tougher to raise the awareness that his campaign will need.



# NATION

## Ruling backs pre-policy shift asylum-seekers

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that a partial ban on asylum does not apply to anyone who appeared at an official U.S. border crossing before the policy was announced in July, a decision that may affect thousands of people.

The Trump administration announced July 16 that it would deny asylum to anyone who traveled through another country without applying there first. The ban was on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court decided Sept. 11 that it could take effect during a legal challenge.

Immigrant advocates went to court on behalf of migrants who heeded instructions of the U.S. government and waited at official crossings to request asylum rather than cross the border illegally.

The advocates said the administration engaged in an "immoral



ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

**Asylum-seekers in Tijuana, Mexico, listen to names called from a waiting list at a border crossing in San Diego in September. A judge ruled Tuesday that a partial ban on asylum doesn't apply to claimants who appeared at an official border crossing before July 16.**

bat-and-switch" against those immigrants by imposing the ban after they arrived at the border

crossing.

U.S. District Judge Cynthia Bashant ruled in their favor

Tuesday, saying anyone who appeared at a U.S. border crossing with Mexico before July 16 would be exempt from the ban.

"(These) asylum seekers understood their access to asylum in the United States to be premised on their willingness to wait in Mexico," Bashant wrote. "In reliance on this representation by the U.S. Government, they did so. The Government — in a shift that can be considered, at best, misleading, and at worst, duplicitous — now seeks to change course."

Faced with a surge in asylum-seeking families last year, the U.S. said there wasn't enough processing capacity at official crossings and began telling people to wait in Mexico to claim asylum. The practice, known as "metering," has left many waiting months.

The number of names on waiting lists in 11 Mexican border cities totaled nearly 21,400 this month, according to a survey by the Strauss Center for Interna-

tional Security and Law at the University of Texas, Austin and the Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

In Tijuana, the waiting list hovers below 9,000 names. People whose names were getting called last week said they had been waiting in Mexico for five months.

The U.S. does not manage the waiting lists, spawning haphazard systems that vary by city. Over time, they have been overseen by Mexican federal, state and local officials, Mexican migrant shelters and immigrants themselves.

The lack of U.S. control or centralized management of the lists makes it difficult to know how many asylum-seekers will benefit from Tuesday's ruling. Attorneys for the plaintiffs estimate it is in the thousands.

Neither the Justice nor Homeland Security Departments responded to requests for comment.

## AMA calls for ban on all e-cigarette, vaping products

Associated Press

The American Medical Association on Tuesday called for an immediate ban on all electronic cigarettes and vaping devices.

The group adopted the sweeping stance at a policy-making meeting in San Diego. It aims to lobby for state and federal laws, regulations or legal action to achieve a ban, but the industry is sure to fight back.

The AMA cited a surge in underage teen use of e-cigarettes, which typically heat a solution that contains nicotine.

"It's simple; we must keep nicotine products out of the hands of young people," Dr. Patrice Harris, the AMA's president, said in a statement.

The doctors' group said a separate health issue also prompted its action — the recent U.S. outbreak of lung illnesses linked to vaping. Most of those sickened said they vaped THC, the high-inducing ingredient in marijuana, not nicotine. Officials believe a thickening agent used in black market THC vaping products may be a culprit.

The outbreak has "shined a light on the fact that we have very little evidence about the short- and long-term health consequences of e-cigarettes and vaping products," Harris said. About 2,100 people have gotten sick; 42 have died.

The AMA has previously sought bans on e-cigarette flavors and ads.

Some observers say the AMA's position is flawed and has little chance of achieving a sweeping ban.

"I would be 100% with the AMA if they were seeking a ban on all tobacco products that are smoked, including e-cigarettes," said Jonathan Foulds, a tobacco addiction specialist at Penn State University. "But right now, nicotine electronic cigarettes are competing with and replacing the most harmful legal product in this country."

Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, a pro-vaping advocacy group, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has made clear that its focus "is not store-bought nicotine vaping products, but il-

licit contaminated THC oil cartridges sold by drug dealers."

"It would be a mistake for adult smokers and their families to listen to these misguided prohibitionists, as the evidence continues to indicate that adult smokers who switch to nicotine vaping products greatly improve their health," Conley said.

The AMA policy calls for a ban of vaping products not approved to help people quit. But so far, none have been reviewed or approved for that use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Juul Labs, the nation's biggest e-cigarette maker, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

E-cigarettes first appeared in the U.S. more than a decade ago

## NY joins states suing Juul

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York has joined the ranks of states suing the nation's biggest e-cigarette maker, Juul Labs Inc., saying the company used deceptive marketing practices to reel in young users.

Attorney General Letitia James announced the lawsuit Tuesday against San Francisco-based Juul. It alleges the company contributed to a youth vaping epidemic using misleading sales tactics on popular social media sites. The suit also alleges that Juul advertising touted e-cigarettes, which contain nicotine, as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes.

In a statement, Juul Labs said it had yet to review the lawsuit.

"We remain focused on respecting the vapor category in the U.S. and earning the trust of society by

working cooperatively with attorneys general, regulators, public health officials, and other stakeholders to combat underage use and convert adult smokers from combustible cigarettes," it said.

The company previously ended the U.S. advertising campaigns and shut down the social media accounts that are the subject of the lawsuit. It also stopped selling most flavors of its e-cigarettes after complaints that they were aimed at attracting young users, not just smokers looking for an alternative to cigarettes.

California sued the company on Monday and North Carolina in May. Illinois, Massachusetts and several other states are also investigating Juul, which James said represents 70% of the e-cigarette market.

James said other companies that produce e-cigarettes may be targeted in the future.



RICHARD DREW/AP

**New York State Attorney General Letitia James, left, announced Tuesday in New York that her state has joined the ranks of states suing the nation's biggest e-cigarette maker, Juul Labs.**

and have grown in popularity despite little research on their long-term effects. The FDA has been widely criticized for repeatedly pushing back its own deadline to begin reviewing thousands of vaping products on the market. The deadline is now next May.

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## NATION

## PG&amp;E: Outages exposed thin prep

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The head of Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. told angry California lawmakers Monday that the nation's largest electric utility wasn't fully prepared for the effects of its unprecedented outages last month even as it plans to shut off power to about 375,000 people this week to prevent wildfires.

Lawmakers wanted answers from PG&E CEO Bill Johnson and executives from the state's other two investor-owned utilities about the shutoffs last month that caused life-saving medication to spoil, businesses to lose money and communications networks to go dark.

Johnson blamed his company's poor response to the blackouts affecting millions of people partly on a sense of complacency after a much smaller outage went well earlier this year.

"We weren't as well-prepared as we thought, and we needed to give a little more attention — a lot more attention — to impacts after we shut the power off," Johnson said. "I do think as things went on, we got better at each one of these."

Lawmakers were skeptical, venting residents' pent-up frustration at the company that is trying to emerge from bankruptcy after its outdated equipment has

sparked devastating wildfires in recent years.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener said he believed PG&E had "forfeited its right to operate as an investor-owned utility."

State Sen. Bill Dodd told Johnson that an Oct. 9 shutoff was "a big 'screw you' to your customers."

"That has really created among the Legislature and among your customers a real trust issue," Dodd said.

Meanwhile, people in Northern California were bracing for more outages. PG&E has started notifying customers in parts of 18 counties that it may turn off electricity Wednesday because of strong winds that could spark wildfires in dry conditions.

The blackout is expected to affect 375,000 people in the San Francisco suburbs, Sierra Nevada foothills, wine country and elsewhere.

Johnson said PG&E has struggled to respond to the growing threat of wildfires over its coverage area of more than 70,000 square miles. In 2012, he said less than 15% of its power lines traversed areas at high risk for wildfires. Since seven years later, that's grown to more than 50%.

The state's two other investor-owned utilities — San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern Califor-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

**Pacific Gas & Electric CEO Bill Johnson, during an oversight hearing at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday, discusses the utility's decision to turn off power last month for millions of people to prevent wildfires.**

nia Edison — also have turned off power this year. But their shutoffs have affected far fewer people and been much shorter.

Caroline Winn, San Diego Gas & Electric chief operating officer, said the company's power outages have averaged about 24 hours, in part because it has upgraded its equipment to more narrowly tai-

lor shutoffs.

Johnson told lawmakers that PG&E has spent \$30 billion over the last 10 years improving its electrical network. He also said the company has plans to install "microgrids," or backup power sources, for isolated areas to help keep power running during a shutoff.

## Police: Ga. teen planned to attack black church

By JEFF MARTIN

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A white 16-year-old girl is accused of plotting to attack a mostly black church in a north Georgia city, where police say she planned to kill worshippers because of their race.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has a predominantly black congregation, Gainesville Police Chief Jay Parrish said in a statement Tuesday.

"Our investigation indicated the church was targeted by the juvenile based on the racial demographic of the church members," he said.

Students, school administrators and law officers worked together to thwart a "potentially horrific incident," he added.

Police did not release the girl's name.

The plot came to light when Gainesville High School students told administrators the teen had a notebook with detailed plans to kill worshippers at the church, Parrish said.

"It just grieves my spirit on a number of different levels, one that the intentions of this young person were so calculated to do great harm against people who just simply had no knowledge of such a plot," said the Rev. Rose Johnson Mackey, director of the Newtown Florist Club, a civil rights organization founded in Gainesville 70 years ago.

The girl is charged with criminal attempt to commit murder, the police chief said. She's being held in a youth detention center in Gainesville.

Details of the alleged plot haven't been released, but Parrish said it came to light Friday when school administrators contacted police.

"We're just very pleased that our police department acted so swiftly, and the police department in conjunction with our school administrators were just on top of the situation," Mackey said.

Gainesville is about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta. It's a city of just over 40,000 people, about 15% of whom are black.

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Rizer-Pool, who leads the congregation at Bethel AME, said she was shocked when notified by police about the alleged attempt.

Rizer-Pool has pastored the church and its approximately 40 members since June 2018. She said the congregation recently celebrated 118 years of service in the community.

"I had asked for active shooting training for the church prior to this but it never happened. Still, I had done a few things to keep us as safe as possible like upgrading the security system, locking the back door and reminding our ushers, our first line of defense, just to be aware of people we don't know," she said.

## Families of inmates who died, were hurt at rural Ohio jail seek answers

Associated Press

GALLIPOLIS, Ohio — Families of inmates who died or were seriously injured at a small Ohio county jail in the last year are seeking answers about what happened to their loved ones.

Records obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with former inmates and family members of deceased prisoners show evidence of uneven care and an overwhelmed staff.

"My goal is to change the policies that these people are dying over," said Sherry Russell, the mother of David "Tommy" Gibson, an advocate for change at the jail. "My son will not have died in vain."

Gibson, 27, killed himself at the Gallia County Jail near the southern tip of Ohio despite being placed in an isolation cell where he was supposed to be under near-constant surveillance.

For now, Russell must wait for the results of an investigation by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation into her son's death.

BCI would not confirm or deny what the agency is investigating. Russell said she has been interviewed by FBI agents.

The 70-year-old Gallia County Jail is in the basement of the county courthouse in the Ohio River community of Gallipolis, population 3,600. State inspec-



MARK GUILFILLE/AP

**Sherry Russell wants to know how her son was able to commit suicide while in an isolation cell at the Gallia County Jail in Ohio.**

tions have outlined dozens of problems at the jail where four inmates overpowered two female corrections officers and escaped in September.

Gallia County, with a population of around 30,000, struggles like much of Appalachia with poverty, drugs and crime. It's not uncommon for a jail with a capacity of 21 inmates to be packed with 50 or 60, records and interviews show.

Sheriff Matt Champlin had not return multiple phone and email messages seeking comment. Problems at the jail existed long

before he took office in January 2017, Champlin said during a Sept. 29 news conference to discuss the escapes.

Russell, a nurse practitioner, said her son had been abusing methamphetamine and illegally obtained Suboxone for months. She and Gibson's wife filed domestic violence complaints against him in September hoping jail time would allow him to get sober and think clearly again.

Gibson complained about being sick and threatened to harm himself the entire week he was in jail. Russell questions why her son was not issued an anti-suicide smock but instead was given a blanket when corrections officers put him in the isolation cell.

Russell said Gibson had a visit from family members that Saturday and "begged not to be put back in that room" afterward.

Inmates in the cell block with Lacey Wolford, 35, when he died of a drug overdose Sept. 23 screamed and banged on their cells for more than 15 minutes trying to get the attention of jail personnel when he became unconscious, said Wolford's sister, Georgia Chapman.

She said she was told that corrections officers tried to revive him with the opioid reversal drug Narcan, but it was too late.

## Sizable Latina pay gap decried

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government figures show that on average, Latinas in the United States are paid 54 cents for every dollar that a white, non-Hispanic male makes.

That means it takes Latinas one year, 10 months and 20 days to match the yearly income of those male workers.

A coalition of nongovernmental organizations is marking the Latina Women's Equal Pay Day on Wednesday, highlighting the day on the calendar when the average Latina, working both 2018 and 2019, matches the 2018 income by white men.

Jasmine Tucker, director of research at the National Women's Law Center, said the numbers are "outrageous" and "devastating" because the trend has remained unaltered for decades, making it impossible for these families to build wealth through generations.

Latino males are paid 65 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, according to federal statistics. The wage gap is greatest for foreign-born Latinas, who are paid just 38 cents to the dollar. Latinas are "facing this double whammy of racism and sexism combined," Tucker said.

## NATION

## Limits to for-profit colleges' vet cash backed

By DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In an unexpected move, Senate Education Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., is backing bipartisan legislation that would limit the revenue for-profit colleges can receive from enrolling veterans.

Alexander's decision, which comes after years of opposition on his part, arrives a week after Sens. Thomas Carper, D-Del.; James Lankford, R-Okla.; Bill Cassidy, R-La.; and Jon Tester, D-Mont., introduced legislation to close a loophole in the 90/10 rule, which prohibits for-profit colleges from getting more than 90% of their operating revenue from federal student aid funding.

Military and veterans' education ben-

efits do not count toward that threshold despite being federal aid. As a result, some veterans groups say for-profit colleges aggressively recruit military members. About 30% of GI Bill tuition benefits went to for-profit schools in 2017, according to the Government Accountability Office.

The legislation, dubbed the Protect VETS Act, would end the exemption and impose penalties for violating the revenue rule. Schools that flout the caps for a year would be barred from enrolling new military students using Department of Defense education benefits, while those who break the law for three years could lose access to all federal financial aid funding.

"I appreciate the work Senators Carper, Cassidy, Lankford and Tester have done to take a highly partisan issue and create a bipartisan solution," Alexander said in a

statement. "This is a responsible and reasonable step to ensure that all of our military and veteran students are attending quality institutions worth their time and money."

The senator's decision was first reported by Bloomberg Government.

Although veterans issues usually garner bipartisan support in Congress, Republicans have remained on the sidelines in efforts to treat military education benefits the same as federal student aid under the revenue rule. Many have questioned the fairness of the 90/10 rule because it applies only to for-profit colleges.

Congress first capped the amount of taxpayer dollars for-profit colleges could receive at 85% in 1992 to crack down on fly-by-night schools making money from student aid programs. The government

figured a for-profit school with quality programs should have no trouble deriving at least 15% of its revenue from students willing to put up their own money. The for-profit industry fought the rule, which was relaxed six years later as the cap was raised to 90% and military education benefits were exempted.

Advocates for the revenue rule say that too many for-profit colleges fail to graduate students and leave them with high debt loads that many borrowers struggle to repay. Imposing restrictions on the federal dollars going to such schools, they say, is necessary to protect students and taxpayers.

Veterans groups say Alexander's support is a significant win that could yield results as Congress updates the federal law governing higher education.



Brittany Pilkington, shown at her 2015 arraignment in Logan County Common Pleas Court in Bellefontaine, Ohio, pleaded guilty Tuesday in the deaths of her three sons and has been sentenced to 37 years in prison. Her attorney, Marc S. Triplett, is at right.

## Mother sentenced in killing of 3 sons

Associated Press

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio — An Ohio woman accused of suffocating her three sons out of jealousy at the attention given them by her husband — who was once her mother's boyfriend — pleaded guilty Tuesday in the boys' deaths and was sentenced to 37 years in prison.

Defendant Brittany Pilkington had been scheduled for trial early next year. The guilty pleas to involuntary manslaughter and murder took the death penalty off the table.

Pilkington's 3-month-old son, Noah, was found dead in August 2015 in the couple's apartment in Bellefontaine, in western Ohio. A 4-year-old son, Gavin, had died in April 2015, and another infant, Niall, had died in July 2014.

The Bellefontaine woman confessed the day Noah was found to killing the boys, saying she was jealous of the attention her husband paid to their sons but not to her and their daughter, Logan County prosecutors said.

Pilkington initially pleaded not guilty to aggravated murder charges. Prosecutors had sought genetic testing for Pilkington

to rule out genetic disorders as a cause of death for the three boys.

Judge Mark Connor ordered that Pilkington's sentences run back to back because of the seriousness of the crimes, a move advocated by prosecutors.

Logan County Prosecutor Eric Stewart said the sentence would bring "justice and closure to this tragic case and protect the community from the defendant." He noted that one of the state's own experts said the death penalty wasn't appropriate due to Pilkington's "mental defects."

Pilkington, 27, suffered lead poisoning as a child followed by years of physical and sexual abuse with no intervention by authorities, said Court Gatterdam, one of her attorneys. Her parents, social service agencies and schools all failed to protect her, he said. A scan identified brain damage.

"Sadly, she's safer living a better life in jail than on the outside," Gatterdam said, calling his client "irreparably damaged."

Attorney Tina McFall, reading a statement on behalf of Pilkington, said she "loves and misses all of her children and grieves for them every day."

Pilkington's husband, Joseph Pilkington, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of sexual imposition for having sex with his wife before they were married, when she was underage. He originally was charged with sexual battery for beginning a sexual relationship with Pilkington, who was two decades younger, and impregnating her in 2009, when she was 17.

He'd had a romantic relationship with Pilkington's mother prior to that, and his indictment indicated he had been living with Pilkington as a sort of stepfather for years.

He wasn't a suspect in the boys' deaths. The Associated Press generally doesn't name people who are victims of sexual assault but is identifying Brittany Pilkington because her name and image were widely published following her arrest in the deaths of her three sons.

Noah died less than a week after he was returned from protective custody on a judge's order. A prosecutor said authorities didn't have any evidence of a crime in the earlier deaths, and no one could have predicted the remaining son would die.

## Police: Commuter killed on train may have tried to stop shoe theft

By JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man who was stabbed to death aboard a San Francisco Bay Area commuter train Tuesday may have been trying to stop the theft of another rider's shoes, authorities said.

Bay Area Rapid Transit said Wednesday Jermaine Jeremiah Brim, 39, of Sacramento was arrested in the Tuesday stabbing on a BART train pulling into a station in Hayward.

After the 1 p.m. stabbing, a man ran from the station. A man was arrested a block away after employees of a car dealership said he tried to steal a van, the San Francisco Chronicle said.

Steve Castro, an employee at Elias Motors, said he was showing a customer the van when a shirtless man snatched the keys from his hand.

The two fought and at one point the man tried to open the van doors.

Castro told the paper that the man eventually asked him to stop, telling Castro, "You're going to kill me."

"I told him, 'Give me the keys, and I'll let you go,'" Castro said.

The man walked across the street toward a bus stop and was arrested by transit officers searching for the suspect.

"This is something that's very tragic. It's rare on BART," BART Police Chief Ed Alvarez said.

"I do want to assure our ridership that BART is safe and we're continuing to reassure them by providing a presence in our system."

BART will increase the presence of police officers, community service officers and fare inspectors at station platforms, said Robert Powers, the agency's general manager.

"We are heartbroken that a person has lost his life due to violence on one of our trains this afternoon," he said in a statement.

The stabbing follows the high-profile death in July of Nia Wilson, 18, who was stabbed in an unprovoked attack on her and her sister in an Oakland BART station.

JOEL E. MAST, THE EXAMINER/AP



Brim



# NATION

## Privacy concerns follow Amazon patent application

By MATT O'BRIEN  
Associated Press

Amazon has considered adding facial recognition technology to its Ring doorbell cameras, according to a letter to a U.S. senator defending its video-sharing partnerships with police.

The company told Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., that facial recognition is a "contemplated, but unreleased feature" of its home security cameras but there are no plans to coordinate that feature with its law enforcement partnerships.

Markey wrote to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos in September raising privacy and civil liberty concerns about Ring's video-sharing agreements with police departments across the country. The company encourages police to tap into Ring's Neighbors app, a forum for residents to share videos of suspicious activity captured by their home security cameras.

The Massachusetts Democrat also expressed alarm that Ring may be pursuing face-scanning technology after a patent application showed the company is exploring a system that could flag certain people as suspicious and automatically alert police.

Markey released Amazon's responses Tuesday.

Amazon's initial response to Markey said Ring doesn't cur-

rently offer facial recognition. Then Markey sent another letter to Bezos asking why it's mentioned in Ring's privacy policy.

In a Nov. 1 follow-up, Amazon's vice president of public policy, Brian Huseman, said that the company frequently innovates based on customer demand and that facial recognition is an increasingly common feature in cameras made by competitors such as Google's Nest vision.

"If our customers want these features in Ring security cameras, we will only release these features with thoughtful design including privacy, security, and user control," Huseman wrote.

Markey's questions about facial recognition were part of broader concerns that some lawmakers and civil liberties advocates have about Ring and its police partnerships. Amazon sought to distance those concerns in its letters to Markey, emphasizing that camera owners have a choice about whether to share videos.

The company noted that police aren't allowed to seek recordings longer than 12 hours in duration or California has a geographical area that is too specific or broad.

But Amazon also said it doesn't require law enforcement to delete a user's video footage after a certain period. Nor would it entertain Markey's request that it commit to never selling users' biometric



JESSICA MILL/AP

**Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., raised privacy questions after a patent application showed Amazon has considered adding facial recognition technology to its Ring doorbell cameras.**

information, saying only that it doesn't do so now.

Markey said Tuesday that Amazon is not doing enough to ensure that its products don't run afoul of civil liberties.

Connected doorbells are well on their way to becoming a mainstay of American households, and the lack of privacy and civil rights protections for innocent residents is nothing short of chilling," he said in a statement.

"If you're an adult walking your dog or a child playing on the sidewalk, you shouldn't have to worry that Ring's products are amassing footage of you and that law enforcement may hold that footage indefinitely or share that footage with any third parties," he added.

More than 600 police departments have signed up to Ring's network since last year and many say it is becoming a useful crime-fighting tool.

## NTSB: Distracted driver behind fatal Uber crash in 2018

By TOM KRISHER  
Associated Press

The National Transportation Safety Board on Tuesday condemned the lack of state and federal regulation for testing autonomous vehicles before finding that a distracted human safety driver was the main cause of a fatal 2018 Arizona crash involving an Uber vehicle.

The board criticized the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the government's road safety agency, for failing to lead in regulating tests on public roads. But it also said states need to adopt their own regulations.

"In my opinion they've put technology advancement here before saving lives," NTSB member Jennifer Homendy said of NHTSA after NTSB staff members called self-regulation inadequate. "There's no requirement. There's no evaluation. There's no real standards issued."

NHTSA has issued voluntary guidelines including safety assessment reports from autonomous vehicle companies, but only 16 have filed such reports, the NTSB said. Yet there are 62 companies with permits to do testing in California. The agency has instead avoided regulations in favor of allowing the technology to move forward because it has tremendous life-saving potential.

NTSB staffers told the board that NHTSA has no mechanism to evaluate the companies' safety reports, and since they aren't mandatory, few are submitting them.

The board voted to recommend that NHTSA require companies to turn in the reports and set up a process for evaluating them. NHTSA should make sure the companies have proper safeguards in place. Those would include making sure that companies show that they are monitoring vehicle operators to ensure they are paying attention during the tests, the NTSB said.

In a statement, NHTSA said it welcomes the NTSB report "and will carefully review it and accompanying recommendations."

NHTSA said its investigation into the Tempe crash, which killed a pedestrian, is ongoing and a report will be made public when it's finished.

The NTSB also recommended that states, including Arizona, require autonomous-vehicle companies turn in applications to test vehicles on public roads that at a minimum require a plan to manage risk and operator inattentiveness. The plans also should set countermeasures to prevent crashes or mitigate their severity.

The NTSB investigates transportation accidents but has no regulatory authority. In highway crashes, it can only make recommendations to NHTSA.

The Uber crash was the first fatality involving an autonomous test vehicle, and if reverberated through the auto industry and Silicon Valley. It forced other companies to slow what had been a fast march toward autonomous ride-hailing services on public roads.

## Calif. halts fracking permits, temporarily bans oil wells

By ADAM BEAM  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom cracked down on oil producers Tuesday, halting approval of hundreds of fracking permits until independent scientists can review them and temporarily banning new wells using another drilling method that regulators believe is linked to one of the largest spills in state history.

The state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources announced it will not approve new wells that use high-pressure steam to extract oil from underground. It's the type of process Chevron uses at an oil field in the Central Valley that leaked more than 1.3 million gallons of oil and water last summer.

That process is different from fracking, which uses water and other chemicals at high pressure to extract oil. California has 263 pending fracking permits but has not approved any of them

since July. That's when Newsom fired California's top oil and gas regulator after learning the state had increased fracking permits by 35% since he took office in January, angering environmental groups.

Newsom, a Democrat, called the crackdown necessary to strengthen the state's oversight of oil and gas extraction "as we phase out our dependence on fossil fuels and focus on clean energy sources."

"This transition cannot happen overnight; it must advance in a deliberate way to protect people, our environment and our economy," Newsom said.

California has been a leader on environmental issues, with Newsom's Democratic predecessor, Jerry Brown, making climate change his signature effort. Brown was criticized for failing to ban fracking or oil drilling, arguing that the state needed to tackle demand before moving on to supply.

The oil industry called Newsom's changes "disappointing," with the Western States Petroleum Association saying California's environmental regulations already led the world.



IRFAN KHAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP

**A crew works on seepage of 800,000 gallons of oil and brine water oil from an abandoned Chevron Corp. well in McKittrick, Calif. Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration has temporarily banned new oil wells in California if they use an extraction method linked to an ongoing oil spill in the area.**

"Every barrel delayed or not produced in this state will only increase imports from more costly foreign sources that do not share

our environmental safety standards," group president Catherine Reheis-Boyd.

California is one of the top five states for oil production, producing more than 161 million barrels last year.

Fracking occurs in some of the state's largest oil fields, mostly in

the Central Valley.

The oil spill last summer was the largest in California since 1990, when a tanker unleashed some 400,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach. But despite its size, the Chevron spill has had minimal effects on the environment.

## WORLD

# Schools reopen, cleanup starts in Hong Kong

By KEN MORITSUGU

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong schools reopened Wednesday after a six-day shutdown but students and commuters faced transit disruptions as the last protesters remained holed up on a university campus.

City officials tried to restore a sense of normalcy as primary and secondary classes resumed. Workers began cleaning up debris blocking a major road tunnel, but it was unclear how soon it could be reopened.

A small group of protesters refused to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the remnants of hundreds who took over the campus for several days. They won't leave because they would face arrest. Police have set up a cordon around the area to prevent anyone from escaping.

The occupation of Polytechnic capped more than a week of intense protests, the latest flareup in the often violent unrest that has gripped the semi-autonomous Chinese city for more than five months.

Since a police siege of the campus began Sunday, more than 1,000 people have been arrested and hundreds of injured treated at hospitals, authorities said.

It was unclear how many protesters remained, but they appeared to number fewer than 100. About two dozen scrounged through supplies in the cafeteria looking for food in the morning.



VINCENT YU/AP

Debris is scattered near the entrance to Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Wednesday. A small band of anti-government protesters, their numbers diminished by surrenders and failed escape attempts, remained holed up at a Hong Kong university early Wednesday.

Trash litters public areas, and a stench permeates the campus.

One protester, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he fears arrest, remained adamant.

"I think if you go out and surrender, it just shows you agree with what the police and that gov-

ernment are doing or have given up the fight," he said.

There were scattered incidents of protesters stopping trains by opening emergency doors and blocking traffic Wednesday but on a much smaller scale than last week.

Television footage showed long

lines at some stations because of train delays. A few stations remained shut because of damage from earlier protests.

A group of protesters, joined by students in uniform, blocked traffic at one intersection. Others in the area argued with them, removing some of the metal bar-

riers that protesters carried into the street.

Even as the latest violence wound down, a fundamental divide suggests the protests in the former British colony are far from over.

Office workers joined protesters at lunch time in the central business district to show support for the movement, as they have every day since last week. Police kept the crowds on the sidewalks so they wouldn't block traffic.

Hong Kong's protests began over an extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to China to face trial. Opponents saw it as a threat to the "one country, two systems" framework that gives Hong Kong its relative autonomy.

The bill has been withdrawn, but protesters are now demanding fully democratic elections and an independent investigation into police actions in suppressing the protests. City leaders have rejected those demands, and said violence must stop before meaningful dialogue can begin.

The city sent inspectors to examine the damage to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel as workers used heavy equipment to remove the debris left on the approach road.

Protesters set fire to the toll booths during their occupation of Polytechnic University, which overlooks the approach. The road tunnel is one of three connecting Hong Kong Island with the rest of the city.

## Esper: Regional nations should counter China's territorial claims

By ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Wednesday accused China of using coercion and intimidation against smaller Asian nations to impose its will in the South China Sea. He urged Vietnam and others in the region to push back.

"We will not accept attempts to assert unlawful maritime claims at the expense of law-abiding nations," Esper said in a speech to the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, a government university.

Vietnam is one of the region's most vocal critics of China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea and has accused Beijing of encroaching into its waters.

"The United States firmly opposes intimidation by any claimant to assert

its territorial or maritime claims, and we call for an end to the bullying and unlawful activities," Esper said.

Later, in remarks at Vietnam's Communist Party headquarters, Esper said, "We strongly oppose violations of international law by China and excessive claims in the South China Sea."

As part of a long-term effort to forge closer relations with Vietnam, Esper announced that the U.S. will provide Vietnam's coast guard with a surplus American ship. He said it would be provided next year, but he gave no details on payment or exact timing.

Esper met with several top government officials and paid a visit to the city's Hoa Lo prison, dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" by American servicemen held there during the Vietnam War. The late Sen. John McCain was held there after he was shot down in his Navy jet over Hanoi in 1967.

seven videos and two photographs they were among a group of five men convicted earlier this year of raping a woman were each sentenced Wednesday to an additional three years and three months in prison for having made videos of the rape with their phones.

A regional court in Pamplona also fined them 5,670 euros (\$6,280) for the

From The Associated Press

## Britain's Conservative Party takes heat over Twitter move

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Conservative Party was accused Wednesday of trying to deceive voters by changing the name of its press office Twitter account to "factcheckUK" during a televised election debate between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Rebranded to resemble a neutral fact-checking account complete with a big checkmark, it posted a series of tweets supporting Johnson during Tuesday's debate. It later reverted to the name "CCHQ Press" and restored the party logo to its profile.

Organizations that seek to combat political misinformation cried foul.

"It was an attempt to mislead voters," Will Moy, chief executive of the London-based fact-checking website Full Fact, told the BBC. "And I think it is inappropriate and misleading for a serious political party to behave that way."

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab defended the party's actions, saying the Twitter account was clearly linked to the Conservatives and claiming voters would not be perturbed by "the social media cut and thrust."

"We make no apology for having an instant rebuttal to all the nonsense and lies put out," Raab told the BBC.

Twitter said in a statement that it had "global rules in place that prohibit behavior that can mislead people." The company pledged to take "decisive corrective action" if there were

any more attempts "to mislead people by editing verified profile information," but did not censure the Tories for their account switch.

The manipulation of the account in a high-profile event put the issue of the rise of digital campaigning squarely in the public eye.

All political parties are devoting much of their campaign spending to the digital realm as they battle to win the U.K.'s Dec. 12 election.

Despite parliamentary reports urging new regulations to combat misinformation or regulate the way digital ads are targeted at voters, officials in Britain have made no significant changes to laws governing online ads, social media and election disinformation.

In a reflection of the confusion, the Electoral Commission, which regulates campaign finances, issued a statement warning that "voters are entitled to transparency and integrity from campaigners in the lead-up to an election." Critically, however, it pointed out that it doesn't have "a role in regulating election campaign content."

In their first TV debate of the election on Tuesday, Johnson and Corbyn attacked each other's policies on Brexit, health care and the economy.

But the debate likely failed to answer the question that has dogged the campaign: Who can voters trust? The two leaders sidestepped tricky questions about their own policies in the hourlong encounter and drew derisive laughter from the studio audience at several points.

## WORLD

# Israeli military strikes Iranian targets in Syria

By TIA GOLDENBERG  
AND BASSEM MROUE  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said it struck dozens of Iranian targets in Syria on Wednesday, carrying out a “wide-scale” strike in response to rocket fire on the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights the day before.

A Britain-based war monitoring group said the Israeli airstrikes killed 11 people, including seven non-Syrians who are most likely Iranians. Syrian state media reported only that two civilians were killed.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets hit multiple targets belonging to Iran’s elite Quds force, including surface-to-air missiles, weapons warehouses

and military bases. After the Syrian military fired an air defense missile, the Israeli military said a number of Syrian aerial defense batteries were also destroyed.

The death toll of 11 was reported by Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition activist group with a network of activists across Syria.

The Observatory said the airstrikes targeted arms depots belonging to the Quds Force in the Damascus suburb of Kisweh and Qudsaya. Abdurrahman added that several other areas were targeted in Wednesday’s strikes, including the Mazzeih airbase in western Damascus where air defense units are stationed.

Syria’s state SANA news agen-



SANA/AP

A paramedic at a hospital in Damascus, Syria, treats a woman who was reportedly wounded by Israeli airstrikes on Iranian targets in Syria.

cy said the two civilians were killed by shrapnel when an Israeli missile hit a house in the town of Saasaa, southwest of Damascus. It said several others were wounded, including a girl in a residential building in the suburb of Qudsaya, also west of the Syrian capital.

It claimed that Syrian air defenses destroyed most of the Israeli missiles before they reached their targets.

Wednesday’s strikes on Syria were the most intense since Jan. 21, when Israel claimed responsibility for a series of airstrikes on Iranian military targets in the

Arab country, including munition storage facilities, an intelligence site and a military training camp, in response to an Iranian missile attack the previous day.

Israel had said the missile, fired by Iranian forces in Syria, was intercepted over a ski resort on the Golan Heights.

## Israel faces unprecedented 3rd election within a year

By ARON HELLER  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli kingmaker politician Avigdor Lieberman on Wednesday refused to endorse a candidate for prime minister, blaming the contenders engaged in a tense standoff that has paralyzed Israeli politics and pushing the country toward a likely third election in less than a year.

Lieberman’s comments came ahead of a midnight deadline for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s rival, Benny Gantz, to form a coalition. Without Lieberman, Gantz appears unable to secure the required majority in parliament to be prime minister.

If Israel is forced into a third election, it would be entering uncharted waters, with

opinion polls already predicting a very similar deadlock. But a new campaign could benefit the embattled Netanyahu, who is expected to be indicted on corruption charges in the coming weeks. Netanyahu would be best-positioned to fight any charges from the prime minister’s office.

Lieberman, who heads a small secular, ultranationalist party, triggered the September election after refusing to join Netanyahu’s traditional allies of hard-line and religious parties following earlier elections in April. The do-over vote left Netanyahu’s Likud and Gantz’s Blue and White party both short of a required majority in the 120-seat parliament without Lieberman’s support.

Lieberman, who hails from the former Soviet Union, has objected to the outsized influence of ultra-Orthodox religious par-

ties and has urged Netanyahu and Gantz to join him in a unity government as a way out of the stalemate.

But Gantz and Netanyahu have refused to bend on their core conditions for such an arrangement.

After weeks of negotiations, Lieberman told reporters he wouldn’t align with either party on its own.

“I made every effort. I turned over every stone,” he said. “There were no significant gaps; they were mainly personal gaps, and after it all, at least for now, it seems we are heading for another election.”



Gantz

Lieberman said he objected to Netanyahu’s alliance with “messianic” religious parties, while he also accused Gantz of reaching out to religious parties and not negotiating in good faith.

“Who is to blame in this situation? Both parties together,” he said. “There was an impressive blame game from both parties, but at the end it was a blame game, with no real will to take tough and dramatic decisions.”

Gantz was given the opportunity to form a government last month after Netanyahu failed in the task.

A former military chief, Gantz has a midnight deadline to present a potential coalition government. If he fails, as expected, the country enters the final 21-day period for any candidate to present a majority before new elections are called.



KYODO NEWS/AP

Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, has made history by becoming Japan’s longest-serving political leader.

## Abe becomes Japan’s longest-serving prime minister

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made history Wednesday by becoming Japan’s longest-serving political leader, though he hasn’t achieved his biggest goal of revising the nation’s pacifist constitution.

Abe marked his 2,887th day in office, surpassing Taro Katsura from the early 20th century.

“Day by day, I have made efforts to achieve the policies that I have promised, and because of these daily efforts, I’m here to mark this day,” Abe told reporters.

Following his disappointing 2006-07 term, Abe returned to office in 2012 and has since bolstered Japan’s defense role but hasn’t yet been able to change the con-

stitution to allow a full-fledged military.

Abe has been stepping up his effort to push through a constitutional change before his party leadership, his third term, ends in September 2021. Abe has denied rumors that he will seek a fourth term in the absence of a strong successor.

The charter campaign has struggled due to a lack of support among a public more concerned with the economy and social security. Abe must obtain approval by two-thirds of both houses of parliament plus a majority in a national referendum to make any revision to the constitution.

Abe on Wednesday renewed his pledge to beat deflation, tackle problems associated with Japan’s aging and declining population and achieve the constitutional revision.

Abe’s resignation after his scandal-laden

first term was the beginning of six years of annual leadership change, remembered as the era of “revolving door” politics.

When he returned to office in 2012, he vowed to revitalize the nation and get its economy out of the deflationary doldrums that had weighed on growth for years after the implosion of the country’s financial bubble in the early 1990s.

His “Abenomics” formula of stimulating consumer demand through government spending, massive injections of cash into the economy via central bank purchases of government bonds and other assets, and sweeping structural reforms has kept the economy growing, but at a much slower rate than promised. Boosting growth remains a challenge given the fast aging of Japan’s workforce and its shrinking population.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Group looks to prevent 'opossum dropping'

**NC** RALEIGH — A movement is growing in North Carolina to prevent the act of so-called "opossum dropping."

The practice involves suspending an opossum in a transparent box on New Year's Eve and slowly lowering it the ground as people count down to midnight.

The Raleigh News & Observer reported that a western North Carolina town had conducted opossum drops for 24 years.

The organization Animal Help Now wants to prevent anyone from doing it elsewhere. That will require a change to state law that currently allows people to do anything they want to opossums for five days each year.

## Bottle of lotion leads to airport evacuation

**FL** DAYTONA BEACH — Sheriff's investigators said a "suspicious package" flagged during the screening process at Florida's Daytona Beach International Airport turned out to be a bottle of lotion.

The incident forced about 200 passengers and workers to evacuate the airport about 6:15 a.m. Tuesday. Airport officials gave an all-clear more than an hour later, resuming normal operations.

Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood said the item was described as a possible detonator during the screening process.

Officials said two flights were delayed because of the evacuation.

## Animal shelter caring for dumped rodents

**NY** ITHACA — An animal shelter in central New York is teeming with rats, mice, gerbils and guinea pigs after humane officers found more than 300 of the small mammals abandoned along roads.

The SPCA of Tompkins County said the rodents were found huddled on the ground beside two roads in the towns of Danby and Dryden, near Ithaca. Many had died of exposure or from ailments related to overcrowded cages and lack of water.

Joe Hoffer, an SPCA investigator, said the animals were probably being bred as "feeder" animals for reptiles, to be sold to pet stores. He said the person who dumped them will face several hundred charges if caught.

## Chased teen breaks legs in airport leap

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — Authorities said a teenager broke both his legs after leaping from an Oklahoma City airport terminal roof while being chased by officers.

An Oklahoma City police statement said the 16-year-old male was exiting a Houston-to-Oklahoma City flight at Will Rogers World Airport when police approached with a felony burglary warrant. Police said he slipped off a side door on the jet bridge, landing on the terminal apron



MICHAEL A. MCCOY/AP

## Bye-bye, Bei Bei

Giant panda Bei Bei eats bamboo at the David M. Rubenstein Family Giant Panda Habitat of the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington before heading back to China on Tuesday. Under terms of the zoo's agreement with the Chinese government, any panda born here must be sent to China when it reaches age 4.

and climbed to the terminal roof in a bid to elude capture.

As officers continued their pursuit across the roof, police said the teen jumped to the apron below, breaking both legs.

## State's first bronze slave medallion unveiled

**RI** PORTSMOUTH — The first of the bronze slave medallions to be placed at locations around Rhode Island has been unveiled.

Rhode Island Democrat David Cicilline and Charles Roberts, chairman of the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions project, cut the ribbon for the unveiling of the medallion at Patriot Park in Portsmouth.

The Newport Daily News reported each of the plaques have a QR Code that visitors can scan with their phones to read about its history.

Roberts said at least one of the medallions will be placed in 25 towns and cities that were involved with slavery across the state.

## Report: State has most metal theft claims

**CT** WATERBURY — A new report said Connecticut has had the most metal theft insurance claims in the country.

## THE CENSUS

# 185

Pa., for a pre-Thanksgiving celebration. Chong insisted he accept \$200 for gas and tolls and a gift card. Proscia said he got stopped for speeding on the return trip, but the officer let him go after he showed the thank-you card from Chong.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau issued a report recently that found that Connecticut had the most metal theft insurance claims per capita in 2017 and 2018. The state had almost 32 theft claims for every 100,000 residents.

According to the report, thieves mostly steal copper and metal piping.

Bureau spokesman Frank Scafidi said this kind of theft is typically driven by "an urgent need for quick cash" and drugs.

## Officials report record number of hatchlings

**SC** CHARLESTON — South Carolina logged more than half a million loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings have made it to the sea during a record-breaking year despite losses during Hurricane Dorian.

The Post and Courier reported that preliminary data from the state Natural Resources Depart-

The approximate number of miles a bagel shop manager drove to return a key fob that a customer left in his shop.

Vinny Proscia, manager of Bagel 101 on Long Island, N.Y., offered to ship the fob but couldn't find a service, so he decided to deliver it to Diana Chong, who was in Honesdale,

ment counted about 525,500 turtles emerging from their nests. The previous record was set in 2016, when eggshell counts showed about 396,400 turtles emerged.

## Suspect throws guinea pig at pet shop owner

**KY** DANVILLE — A Kentucky pet store owner said two women stole a pair of guinea pigs, lobbing one of the animals at him during their escape.

News outlets reported Isabelle Mason, 21, and Jaimee Pack, 19, are accused of trying to take the animals from Pet Paradise without paying. Owner Scott Gonyaw told WKYT-TV he confronted the suspects, screaming "Give me the guinea pigs!" as they got into a car.

One suspect rolled down a window and tossed a 4-month-old guinea pig named Lucky onto the concrete. The other ran over

Gonyaw's foot with the car. Lucky wasn't injured, and the other guinea pig remains missing.

## Police: Man whose car burned hit firefighters

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Police in St. Louis arrested a man they say punched two firefighters who were trying to douse his burning car.

Station KMOV reported the assault happened after a crash at an intersection in the Penrose neighborhood.

Police said the man was upset because he thought the firefighters were taking too long to extinguish the fire consuming his car and began hitting them.

The man was arrested on suspicion of assault.

## 200 evacuated from malfunctioning ski lift

**VT** DOVER — About 200 people had to be evacuated from a malfunctioning chair lift at Mount Snow in southern Vermont during its opening weekend.

MyNBC5 reported that the hour-long malfunction happened last weekend. Ski patrol helped riders off the Challenger lift.

No injuries were reported.

From wire reports

## FACES

## Youth is served

Lizzo, Billie Eilish, Lil Nas X lead diverse, youthful Grammy noms

By RANDY LEWIS  
Los Angeles Times

Freshman-class recording artists Lizzo, Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X collectively landed 20 Grammy Award nominations for 2020 on Wednesday as the Recording Academy, which determines nominees and, ultimately, award recipients, wholeheartedly embraced the music industry's newest faces and sounds.

The singer, rapper and instrumentalist Lizzo, 31, whose sassy empowerment songs became unexpected chart-topping anthems, leads the field with eight nominations. Seventeen-year-old goth-pop phenom Eilish, who tied with rapper Lil Nas X for the second-most nominations with six, and Lizzo further distinguished their nascent careers by landing nominations in all of the Grammys' top four general categories: record, album, song and best new artist, the first time in the awards' 62-year history that two artists have done so in the same year.

Nominations were revealed in New York during a televised announcement on CBS by Deborah Dugan, the Recording Academy's new president and chief executive; the academy's board chair, Harvey Mason Jr.; Alicia Keys, who will host the upcoming ceremony; singer Bebe Rexha and "CBS This Morning" anchor Gayle King.

Eilish also earns the distinction of becoming the youngest artist in Grammy history nominated for album of the year, for her chart-topping debut, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" "I never thought I would be a reality in my life," she told *The Los Angeles Times* recently when asked about the prospect of Grammy recognition. "I grew up watching the Grammys with my family. I would judge all the girls' dresses and all the dudes' suits. To think about sitting in a room with him, like, every person I grew up idolizing," Eilish added, "is terrifying."

The history-making aspect of the latest Grammy slate extends to Lil Nas X, the openly gay rapper who earned nominations for record, album and new artist, propelled by his genre-hopping, record-breaking hit single "Old Town Road."

"Today's announcement reflects a new era for the Recording Academy — an army of engaged members that welcomes diversity, embraces creativity and champions young musicians on the rise," Dugan said in a statement issued Wednesday.

The nominations recognize hundreds of musicians, songwriters, producers and engineers stretching across 84 categories spanning pop, rock, rap, R&B, country, folk, gospel, Latin music, jazz, classical and film music. Winners will be announced Jan. 26 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

With its nomination slate dominated by so many young acts, women and hip-hop artists, the academy also tacitly has embraced the shifting tides of music consumption today. Increasingly left behind is the old model: music in physical form predominantly exposed via terrestrial radio. In the digital age, artists cultivate audiences for their music through a plethora of new outlets such as TikTok — the social media platform that gave Lil Nas X's



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Lizzo, shown Sept. 18 in Philadelphia, earned eight Grammy Award nominations Nov. 20, more than any other act.



Complete list of Grammy nominations at [grammy.com](http://grammy.com)

"Old Town Road" its initial attention — before seeing it more broadly disseminated by dominant streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music.

The other album of the year nominees are plaintive indie-rockers Bon Iver, singer-songwriter Lana Del Rey, pop singer Ariana Grande, R&B singer-guitarist H.E.R. and long-running alt-rock group Vampire Weekend.

Among the biggest surprises was the single nomination in the top four categories for Taylor Swift, whose seventh album, "Lover," was the year's biggest seller as well as being widely praised by critics.

The title track earned her a nomination among song of the year contenders, joining Lady Gaga's "Always Remember Us This Way" from "A Star Is Born"; Eilish's "Bad Guy"; veteran country star Tanya Tucker's comeback hit "Bring My Flowers Now"; H.E.R.'s "Hard Place"; Del Rey's "Norman F — Rockwell"; Scottish singer-songwriter Lewis Capaldi's wounded ballad "Someone You Loved"; and Lizzo's breakthrough hit "Truth Hurts."

The best new artist nominations include one of the day's big surprises: Black Pumas, the nascent Austin, Texas-based duo of singer Eric Burton and guitarist-producer Adrian Quesada, who earned a Grammy nomination individually in 2008 for his playing on Grupo Fantasma's album "Sonidos Gold" in the Latin rock or alternative album category.

Along with Black Pumas, Eilish, Lizzo and Lil Nas X in the new artist competition are indie-rock singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers; New Orleans R&B-funk collective Tank and the Bangas; Spanish flamenco pop singer Rosalía, fresh off her five wins at last week's Latin Grammy Awards; and English soul singer-songwriter Yola.

In addition to Lizzo's "Truth Hurts," Eilish's "Bad Guy" and Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road" — the remix version he released in collaboration with country singer Billy Ray Cyrus — the record of the year nominations, which award musical performance and record production, are Bon Iver's "Hey, Ma," Grande's "7 Rings," H.E.R.'s "Hard Place," Khalid's "Talk" and Post Malone and Swae Lee's "Sunflower."

The most nominated artists following Lizzo, Eilish and Lil Nas X, with five each, are Beyoncé — also notable in her absence from the top four categories — H.E.R. and Eilish's brother and musical collaborator, Finneas O'Connell.

English pop phenomenon Ed Sheeran received just a single nomination, in the pop vocal album category for "No. 6 Collaborations Project." Canadian rapper, singer and blockbuster hit maker Drake was nominated twice: in the R&B and rap song categories.

Lady Gaga collected three nominations related to her music in "A Star Is Born": Beyond the best song nod, the album is recognized in the compilation soundtrack for visual media category, and the song "I'll Never Love Again" is a contender for song written for visual media.

## Test shows that Hanks, Mr. Rogers are sixth cousins

From wire reports

Tom Hanks unintentionally found a more immersive form of method acting: sharing DNA with his character.

Hanks, 63, recently discovered he's related to Fred Rogers of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" fame. Hanks plays the beloved television personality in his upcoming film "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

Hanks and Rogers share a great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, making the two sixth cousins, according researchers at Ancestry.com. The genealogy company constructed Hanks' family tree by using its database of more than 20 billion online historical records, a company representative told CBS News.

Entertainment news show "Access Hollywood" broke the news to Hanks and his wife, fellow actor Rita Wilson, at a New York City screening for the coming film.

Wilson told the reporter that she was pulling the couple's leg while Hanks questioned how far back his connection to Rogers is.

Hanks and Wilson looked at a chart that showed his relation to Rogers stretching back to a man named Johannes Meffert, who was born in 1712.

Hanks' movie hits theaters Friday.

## A-list celebs to join Oprah on wellness tour

Oprah Winfrey's going on tour, and she's bringing a rock-star lineup with her, including former first lady Michelle Obama and Grammy- and Oscar-winner Lady Gaga.

Live Nation announced Wednesday that Winfrey's wellness arena tour with WW (Weight Watchers Reimagined) — dubbed "Oprah's 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus" — will also include guest appearances from Jennifer Lopez, Dwayne Johnson, Amy Schumer, Tina Fey, Tracee Ellis Ross and Kate Hudson.

On the nine-city tour, Winfrey will hold one-on-one conversations with the superstars, starting with Gaga on January 4, 2020, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

## Book series based on '1619 Project' planned

The New York Times' acclaimed "1619 Project" will be the basis for a series of books, for readers of all ages.

Random House Group imprints have acquired rights to the books, the publisher announced Wednesday. The books will build upon the Times' magazine special issue from last summer that centered on the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans to be brought to the U.S. and slavery's enduring legacy. Releases will include an expanded version of the magazine issue, including essays, fiction and poetry. Random House also plans a graphic novel and four "1619 Project" publications for young people.



Billie Eilish

SCOTT LEAZO, GETTY IMAGES  
FOR LIVE NATION/TNS

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MARK LENNIHAN/AP

**Former Army 1st Lt. Clint Lorange, who received a full pardon Friday from President Donald Trump, salutes while appearing on "Fox & Friends" on Monday in New York.**



ANDREW CRAFT, THE FAYETTEVILLE (N.C.) OBSERVER/AP

**Maj. Mathew Golsteyn, a former Army Special Forces soldier also pardoned by Trump, leaves the Fort Bragg, N.C., courtroom facility with his civilian lawyer, Phillip Stackhouse, in June.**

# Trump's pardons embrace 'total war'

By JENS DAVID OHLIN  
Special to The Washington Post

**L**ate last week, President Donald Trump pardoned two service members and reversed the demotion of a third, each of whom was accused of war crimes. The details of the crimes were different, but the cases shared a common theme: The men were accused of killing civilians or prisoners outside the zone of combat in violation of the laws of war.

The pardons, made over the objections of the Pentagon, suggest that Trump holds a dangerous, obsolete view of warfare — one that had fallen into disrepute after the horrors of World War II. His actions suggest that he believes in "total war," in which warfare is conducted not only by professional soldiers but also by entire societies, including their civilians.

The slaughter of the 1940s, in which civilians bore the brunt of much military force, notably through aerial bombings, led nations to recommit themselves to vigorous enforcement of rules on the conduct of war — rules that drew sharp distinctions between combatants and noncombatants, protecting the latter. The goal was to avoid total war at all costs and to ensure that professional soldiers bore the brunt of war's horror. Trump apparently rejects the combatant-noncombatant distinction as a pointless quibble. Yet such a stance could have dangerous implications, including for both U.S. soldiers and American civilians.

Through the 19th and early 20th centuries, war had been moving steadily in the direction of total war. The goal was to defeat the enemy. The rest of the continent suffered the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800s, militaries used strategies designed to demoralize civilians so they would pressure their leaders for peace. Cities were burned; food supplies destroyed.

World War I was no better. When the Germans invaded Belgium in 1914, they massacred civilians and looted the town of Louvain. The rest of the continent suffered a refugee crisis as millions of civilians on both sides were displaced during the fighting. The logical culmination of total war came in World War II with the Holocaust, the strategic bombing of cities as a tactic of demoralization and the dropping of the atomic bomb.

The rules codified after World War II, however, harked to codes that first rose to prominence during the medieval period. Under "chivalric" codes, warfare was conducted by knights who engaged in battle with each other according to customs or norms of honor. It was considered dishonorable to fight people outside of the circle of those designated to bear arms.

After World War II, the chivalric notion of warfare came to be embodied in international treaties like the Geneva Conventions

**Trump's pardons each involved alleged crimes committed by U.S. soldiers against individuals hors de combat, a legal term meaning individuals who are "outside" of combat.**

and domestic statutes like the Uniform Code of Military Justice — which formed the basis for the prosecutions in the three cases into which the president inserted himself. These laws ensure that the burdens of war fall almost exclusively on professional soldiers, who are granted legal immunity to kill enemy soldiers; in turn, they open themselves up to the reciprocal risk of getting killed by the enemy.

Trump's pardons each involved alleged crimes committed by U.S. soldiers against individuals hors de combat, a technical legal term meaning individuals who are "outside" of combat.

Army Maj. Mathew Golsteyn was charged with murder in the killing of a suspected Taliban bombmaker, known as Rasoul, who was in the process of being released from U.S. custody in Afghanistan in 2010. Golsteyn was initially reprimanded but not charged by the military, but during a later job interview with the CIA, Golsteyn admitted that he had executed the man and burned the body, which caused the military to reopen its investigation. Golsteyn was scheduled to be tried in February.

Former Army 1st Lt. Clint Lorange was convicted in 2013 of two counts of murder for ordering his platoon to open fire on civilians riding a motorcycle in Afghanistan. Members of his platoon testified that the victims did not pose a danger to the platoon and that Lorange had "repeatedly" targeted unarmed civilians, according to The New York Times. Lorange received 20 years in prison.

Former Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher was charged with killing a wounded Islamic State detainee who was being treated by a U.S. medic. Gallagher was accused of executing the prisoner with a knife, although at trial the medic dramatically changed his story and claimed to have killed the prisoner himself by placing his finger on the man's breathing tube after the knife injury. Gallagher was acquitted of murder but convicted of posing with the corpse for a photograph, and he received a demotion. Trump reversed the demotion.

Such acts violate the core feature of the "war convention" (as the philosopher Michael Walzer has called it) that evolved out of the chivalric notion of combat: namely, the prohibition on harming civilians and

soldiers who are either prisoners of war or wounded and therefore incapable of fighting back. (Civilians can be killed as collateral damage — an exception that can be abused but which remains important. To be lawful, the death of civilians must be ancillary to the main goal of attacking soldiers and unavoidable if that goal is to be achieved.) The man Golsteyn is alleged to have killed had just been released from custody; Lorange's victims were civilians who, according to the military, had taken no part in combat at all; Gallagher's victim was grievously injured. All were shielded from military attack under the laws of war.

The chivalric notion of warfare does bring with it some negative consequences. Soldiers are given little legal protection, at least while they are fighting, and can be killed in large numbers. These rules of war do not yet create any protections for soldiers who are technologically outmatched, and slaughtered as a result, or unwillingly conscripted into service. And some scholars, such as historian Samuel Moyn, have argued in good faith that our collective obsession with "humane" warfare has crowded out legal prohibitions against starting wars in the first place, ultimately leading to more casualties in the long run.

You would think that it would be the professional military that would have the greatest misgivings about the chivalric code, since the military bears the greatest burdens under its rules. But the truth is just the opposite. In the three cases in which Trump granted pardons, military (not civilian) prosecutors worked hard to investigate and prosecute their own service members. Platoon members horrified by conduct they witnessed testified against the defendants.

The White House styled the pardons as an exercise in mercy: a form of sovereign grace that has inspired Trump to issue many pardons over the past three years. (The White House said in a statement that the president is "ultimately responsible that the law is enforced, and when appropriate, that mercy is granted.") But by issuing the pardons, Trump appeared to have rejected the chivalric code of warfare and embraced an ethos of total war without legal restrictions.

The Pentagon recognizes that maintaining unit discipline, respect for rules of engagement and compliance with the law of war is important for protecting the United States. If the chivalric code breaks down, and legal restrictions evaporate, there will be no grounds for objection when U.S. service members and civilians fall victim to unrestrained killing and brutality. In total war, civilians on both sides always lose.

Jens David Ohlin is vice dean and professor of law at Cornell Law School, where he teaches and writes about international law, national security and criminal law.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Google game-streaming plan has muted launch

By MAE ANDERSON  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Google's new game-streaming service Stadia demonstrates the possibilities of gaming from the cloud, but experts say it's hindered by a lack of compelling video games and a convoluted pricing scheme.

Piers Harding-Rolls, head of games research at IHS Markit, called Tuesday's launch more of a public beta test than an actual debut.

He said the real test will come next year, when Stadia begins to compete with new video game consoles due out from Sony and Microsoft.

"It is not at the moment a challenger to console companies or PC gaming," he said. "At this stage it is really about getting the product into market and into hands of consumers."

Google can learn from that and fine-tune the service as it grows and competition intensifies, he said.

Much like with movies and music, the traditional video-game industry has been shifting from physical hardware and games to digital downloads and streaming. Such an approach lets gamers play from a variety of devices, picking up where they left off as they switch without having to buy expensive equipment.

Tech companies such as Google are trying to establish a foothold early — even with some kinks — before streaming becomes as established in gaming as Netflix is in video and Spotify in music.

The benefits go beyond subscription revenue. While Stadia itself won't have ads, Google will try to tie Stadia with its other services, like YouTube and its digital assistant.

As more people use Google



GOOGLE/AP

**This controller is part of a video game-streaming platform called Stadia that Google launched Tuesday. Experts say it has some growing to do before it becomes a contender in the gaming arena.**

services, the company can collect more data on user habits and show more ads targeted to those interests.

But these tech companies must compete with gaming stalwarts Sony and Microsoft, both of which have streaming ambitions of their own.

Microsoft's \$10-a-month Xbox Game Pass lets players download more than 100 games on the Xbox console at no additional cost. The company is also working on a streaming service, Project xCloud, though few details are available.

Sony's PlayStation Now, also at \$10 a month, or \$60 a year, lets users stream or download games on its PlayStation 4 console or a personal computer.

Stadia isn't meant for the console. But it requires a PC with Google's Chrome browser or a Google-made device — a

Chromebook laptop, a Chromecast TV streaming device or a Pixel phone. It won't work with other phones using the company's Android operating system, or on iPhones, for now.

The service will eventually cost \$10 a month, but it's currently available only to those who bought a \$130 bundle that includes a three-month subscription. The service currently offers 22 games — most carrying a separate fee. For example, the adventure game "Red Dead Redemption 2" starts at \$60.

Apple is also getting into the game-subscription business with Apple Arcade. The \$5-a-month service lets users download a variety of games to play on iPhones and iPads. Games don't cost extra.

Apple Arcade lets people download games to play offline, but Stadia does not.

Google is competing on this front too with a separate subscription called Google Play Pass. The \$5-a-month service gives users access to about 350 games and apps on Android devices.

Video game streaming typically requires a strong connection and more computing power than simply streaming video, as there is real-time interaction between player and game. Google says it is tapping its massive data centers to power the system.

From a technological front, Stadia impresses, said Randy Nelson, head of mobile insights at analytic firm Sensor Tower.

But elsewhere, Stadia falls short. He said there is a disconnect between the hard-core gaming audience that Google appears to be targeting and the few compelling games actually available.

"Gylt," a fantasy horror adventure game, is the service's only new exclusive title. Other games available at launch include "Shadow of the Tomb Raider," "Mortal Kombat," "Just Dance 2020" and "Destiny 2" — but all of these are available on other game platforms, too.

"It does seem to be a bit of a bare-bones launch to get this service out the door," Nelson said. "Hopefully, Google will expand it

over time."

Nelson said Google's approach is odd because it targets hardcore gamers who probably already have a console or PC, as well as many of the games on offer, rather than trying to reach more mainstream or casual users who don't want to invest a few hundred dollars in a console.

"There's certainly a missed opportunity here to position Stadia as a gateway to console-style gaming for casual and mobile players," Nelson said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 21)	\$1.1351
Dollar buys (Nov. 21)	€0.8810
British pound (Nov. 21)	£1.32
Chinese yuan (Nov. 21)	¥6.7451
Japanese yen (Nov. 21)	¥106.00
South Korean won (Nov. 21)	₩1,414.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	£1.2920
Canada (Dollar)	1.3281
China (Yuan)	7.0345
Denmark (Krone)	6.7851
Egypt (Pound)	16.0999
Euro	\$1.1079/€0.9026
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8266
Hungary (Forint)	300.80
Israel (Shekel)	3.4741
Japan (Yen)	106.54
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3037
Norway (Krone)	9.1344
Philippines (Peso)	50.86
Poland (Zloty)	3.88
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7591
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3608
South Korea (Won)	1,169.25
Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	0.9929
Thailand (Baht)	36.08
Turkey (Lira)	3.7013

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; for nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## MARKET WATCH

Nov. 19, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-102.20
	27,934.02
Nasdaq composite	20.72
	8,570.66
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.85
	3,120.18
Russell 2000	5.95
	1,598.29

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federals funds market rate	2.55
3-month bill	1.52
30-year bond	2.25

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

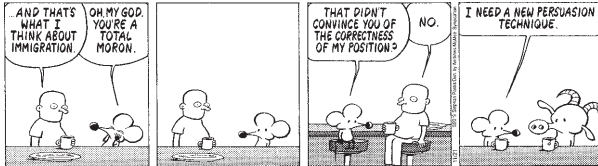
Frazz



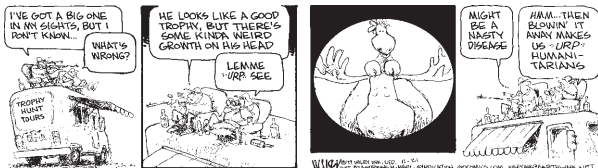
Dilbert



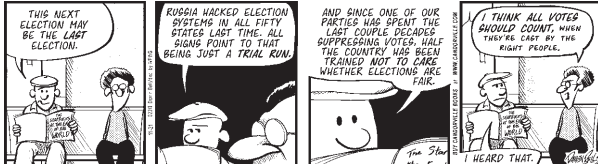
Pearls Before Swine



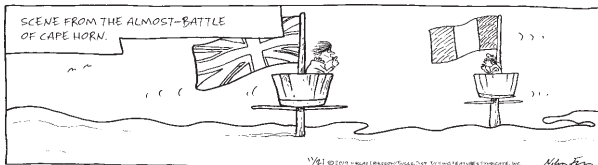
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12						13				14				
15						16				17				
18						19			20	21				
24	25	26				27	28	29				30	31	
32						33						34		
35						36	37					38		
42	43					44		45				46	47	48
49						50	51					52		
53						54						55		
56						57						58		

### ACROSS

- 1 Wild guess
- 5 Distant
- 8 Like most car radios
- 12 Greek vowel
- 13 CBS logo
- 14 Ashen
- 15 Wide smile
- 16 Composer Rorem
- 17 Pressing need
- 18 Ballpark snack
- 20 Humiliated
- 22 Connections
- 23 Spanish gold
- 24 Optimum
- 27 Stocky
- 32 Have debts
- 33 German conjunction
- 34 Punk rock offshoot
- 35 Reserve for future use
- 38 Dazzle
- 39 Small ammo
- 40 "— Sera, Sera"
- 42 Libra symbols
- 45 Depleted
- 49 Lingerie trim
- 50 Santa — winds
- 52 Algeria's neighbor
- 53 Pen fluids

- 54 Obtained
- 55 Panache
- 56 Nuisance
- 57 First lady?
- 58 Eat in style

- 21 Carpool-lane abbr.
- 24 Derek and Diddle
- 25 Ram's mate
- 26 Disappointments
- 28 Conclusion
- 29 Sufficient
- 30 Outback bird
- 31 Great weight
- 36 Most competent
- 37 Away from NNW
- 38 Appeared to be
- 41 "People" rival
- 42 Faux pas
- 43 Walking stick
- 44 Wise one
- 46 Surrealist
- Salvador
- 47 — Bator
- 48 Freshener scent
- 51 Calendar abbr.

### DOWN

- 1 Unuttered "alas"
- 2 Corrida bull
- 3 Bickering
- 4 Outlaw
- 5 Chinese design system
- 6 Nay undero
- 7 Some wines
- 8 Beekeeper's place
- 9 Small monkey
- 10 Drifting ice
- 11 Repair
- 19 Atop

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	S	H	A	G	O	B	S	L	O	B
B	I	O	S	I	D	O	T	O	R	A
O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R	O	V	E
E	S	S	E	S	G	R	U	E	L	S
			E	M	M	Y	E	T	D	
F	L	A	P	A	I	R	S	O	M	G
A	I	L	S	W	E	E	T	N	A	B
T	E	L	I	S	L	A	S	E	T	S
			I	R	A	D	R	A	T	
D	E	N	I	M	S	S	O	O	T	Y
I	S	O	N	O	N	E	H	O	R	S
S	A	N	K	F	I	E	L	E	A	P
C	U	E	S	A	X	L	S	R	S	

### 11-21

### CRYPTOQUIP

MC ML LH TO LU JL  
DAZO-RHMCLMAO LDIA MC  
ADI LDLJWWB TAZWOJA JAP  
WMLLOHOP TR? OBOCDHO  
UDRO ADL!

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF "THE WIZARD OF OZ" HAD GOTTEN SET IN GERMANY, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD INCLUDE MUNICH-KINS?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals S




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Manual Diesel With trailer hitch \$10,300.00 email: <a href="mailto:fanev01@hotmail.com">fanev01@hotmail.com</a> <b>2013 VW Golf R</b> - \$20,000.00 - US Spec car purchased in Arizona 4 Door Black Pearl 5 Speed Manual Upgraded Catch system Upgraded CPU 300+ HP Upgraded Brembo 6 caliper brake system Upgraded Engine torque plate travel for daily drive Two sets of tires included Call: 01904000010	<b>BMW X5</b> for sale \$13,600.00 - BMW X5 Diesel Am Specs 105,000 mi. All options, including ventilated seats with massager, mediana, curtain, and more. Accident free, one owner, dealer maintained, perfect car. Mint condition. Call: <a href="mailto:home:08781087710">home:08781087710</a> Email: <a href="mailto:gorshnev@hotmail.com">gorshnev@hotmail.com</a> <b>Volkswagen Vanagon Westalia</b> - 1980 - 1984 Volkswagen Camper Westalia edition 165,000 miles, US spec Engine replaced in 2011 with a custom call "convoy" currently has about 13,000 miles just passed inspection. Many parts replaced over the years. Call for a hard2014@gmail.com <b>Autos for Sale - Germany 142</b> Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles <a href="http://www.classifiedmilitaryautosales.com">www.classifiedmilitaryautosales.com</a> Free Europe-wide delivery	<b>2004 Jeep Liberty 4WD Limited Edition</b> \$4,000.00 - 4 speed automatic - 3.7 liter engine 116,000 miles - 2004 November 2019 Located in Belgium Tel: +32 (0)47-64-4-4333 email: <a href="mailto:Kal.dodgely@yahoo.com">Kal.dodgely@yahoo.com</a> <b>2018 Audi Q3</b> (American spec) 259,500.00 - 200 HP turbo charged updated engine Auto mail: 2 year/10,000 mile warranty, 3.0 liter Premium Plus edition Premium Bose sound system, with adaptive driver assist and navigation system. 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## NBA

## Roundup

## Another mark for LeBron

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — To LeBron James, triple-doubles are not a goal.

They are only a side effect of the consistent, brilliant all-around play he has been dishing out for 17 NBA seasons, with no slowdown in sight.

Triple-doubles also don't mean much to LeBron without wins attached to them, so James was pleased when his latest statistical superlative occurred during yet another successful night for the surging Los Angeles Lakers.

James became the first player in NBA history to record a triple-double against every team in the league, and Anthony Davis scored 34 points during the Lakers' fifth straight victory, 112-107 over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

James finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to post a triple-double against his 30th opponent for the NBA-leading Lakers, who have won 12 of 13 after a perfect four-game home-stand. James was more surprised than thrilled by his latest statistical achievement, particularly while a different statistic glared at him from the box score.

"Coach (Frank) Vogel came in here and said, 'Congratulations,' and I thought he was joking about my seven turnovers," James said. "I really don't know what to think about it. I just think it's a pretty cool stat to know, and I'm glad it happened in a win."

**Pelicans 115, Trail Blazers 104:** Jrue Holiday had 22 points and 10 assists, Brandon Ingram added 21 points, and host New Orleans spoiled Carmelo Anthony's Portland debut.

Anthony finished with 10 points while Portland leading scorer and four-time All-Star Damian Lillard missed his first game of the season with back spasms.

**Warriors 114, Grizzlies 95:** Alec Burks scored a season-high 29 points, Glenn Robinson III added 20 and visiting Golden State snapped a seven-game losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

Marquese Chriss and Eric Paschall added 17 points apiece for the Warriors. Draymond Green was just short of his 24th career triple-double with eight points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists.

**Kings 120, Suns 116:** Bogdan Bogdanovic set career highs with 31 points and seven three-pointers, and host Sacramento beat Phoenix.

Richaun Holmes had 20 points and 15 rebounds, Nemanja Bjelica scored 17 points and Harrison Barnes added 15 for Sacramento.



Rinco H.W. Chu/AP

The Lakers' LeBron James dunks during the first half of Tuesday's game against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Los Angeles. James had 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in a 112-107 victory.

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					Tuesday					Kings 120, Suns 116					
Atlantic Division					Pelicans 115, Trail Blazers 104					PHOENIX — Oubre Jr. 8-17 3-10 2, Saric 15-0-0 2, Kaminsky 5-9 4-6 17, Rubio 9-7 1-2 1, Booker 10-20 7-8 30, Bridges 6-9 7-20, Coughlin 7-13 0-0 18, Diallo 1-4 0-2, Okobo 0-3 4-6 7, Johnson 0-0 3-2 2. Totals 36-89 28-34 116.					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
Boston	11	2	84%	—	PORTLAND	—	Hood 4-12 0-0 8, Anthony 4-14 0-10, Whiteside 5-7 4-4 14, Simons 4-13 2-4 13, McCollum 9-22 0-12, Hezonja 3-5 0-7, Little 5-6 0-2 12, Labissiere 2-4 0-4, Bazemore 3-8 2-2 11, Trent Jr. 1-1 0-3	SACRAMENTO	—	Barnes 5-10 4-4 20, Bjelica 7-12 0-0 17, Holmes 8-11 4-4 20, Joseph 2-5 2-2 6, Hield 3-14 5-6 12, Dedmon 4-7 0-8, Ferrell 1-4 6-7 9, James 1-0 0-2, Bogdanovic 11-14 2-2 31. Totals 42-79 23-25 120.					
Toronto	9	4	69%	2	TOTALS	46-92 8-13 10-4		NEW ORLEANS	—	Ingram 8-20 4-4 21, Williams 3-2 3-4 8, Hayes 3-8 3-4 9, Holiday 10-18 1-2 22, Redick 6-12 2-2 18, Meili 4-10 5-5 14, Jackson 2-4 3-4 9, Alexander-Walker 1-6 0-3 3, Moore 5-12 0-11. Totals 41-83 20-24 115.					
Philadelphia	8	5	61%	3				Portland	26	25	25-104				
Brooklyn	5	8	38%	6				New Orleans	27	26	35-115				
New York	10	2	86%	1				Three-Point Goals—Portland 16-29 (McCollum 4-0, Bazemore 3-5, Simons 3-5, Little 2-2, Anthony 2-3, Hezonja 1-1, Trent Jr. 1-1, Hood 0-2), New Orleans 13-36 (Redick 4-9, Williams 2-2, Jackson 2-4, Moore 1-2, Alexander-Walker 1-4, Holiday 3-4, Ingram 1-5, Meili 1-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 48 (Whiteside 14), New Orleans 53 (Williams 13). Assists—Portland 20 (McCollum 5), New Orleans 24 (Holiday 10). Total Fouls—Portland 23, New Orleans 15. Technicals—New Orleans coach Pelicans (Defensive three second). —A-15,021 (16,867).							
Southeast Division					Warriors 114, Grizzlies 95					Lakers 112, Thunder 107					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
Miami	9	3	75%	—	GOLDEN STATE	—	Paschall 7-15 3-17, Green 4-12 0-0 8, Cauley-Stein 2-3 2-2 6, Burks 9-15 9-9 29, Robinson III 8-14 1-1 20, Chris 7-11 3-17, Spellman 3-9 1-3 9, Bowman 3-0 0-3 3, Poole 2-8 0-0 5. Totals 43-90 19-22 114.	OKLAHOMA CITY	—	Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.					
Orlando	6	7	46%	3 1/2	MEMPHIS	—	Crowder 5-11 1-21 5, Jackson Jr. 3-7 1-2 8, Valanciunas 3-7 1-1 7, Morant 7-20 5-6 20, Brooks 7-17 1-11 8, Anderson 1-1 0-1 2, Gabardo 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 2-3 0-4, Clarke 6-14 5-17, Melton 0-1 0-0 6, Jones 2-6 0-0 4, Gudumir 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 45-88 19-24 114.	LAKERS	—	James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
Charlotte	6	8	42%	4				Golden State	28	25	31-114				
Atlanta	4	9	30%	5 1/2				Memphis	30	29	23-95				
Washington	3	8	27%	5 1/2				Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).							
Central Division					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
Milwaukee	10	3	76%	—	OKLAHOMA CITY	—	Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.	LAKERS	—	James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
Indiana	8	6	57%	2 1/2				Golden State	28	25	31-114				
Detroit	4	9	30%	6				Memphis	30	29	23-95				
Cleveland	4	6	38%	6				Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).							
Chicago	4	10	28%	6 1/2											
Western Conference					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
Southwest Division					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
Houston	11	3	78%	—	OKLAHOMA CITY	—	Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.	LAKERS	—	James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
Dallas	8	5	61%	2 1/2				Golden State	28	25	31-114				
Memphis	5	9	35%	5				Memphis	30	29	23-95				
New Orleans	5	9	35%	6				Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).							
San Antonio	5	9	35%	6											
Northwest Division					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
Denver	9	3	75%	—	OKLAHOMA CITY	—	Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.	LAKERS	—	James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
Utah	8	6	57%	1 1/2				Golden State	28	25	31-114				
Portland	5	10	33%	5 1/2				Memphis	30	29	23-95				
Oklahoma City	8	6	57%	2				Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).							
Portland	5	10	33%	5 1/2											
Pacific Division					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
	W	L	Pct	GB											
L.A. Lakers	2	2	85%	—	OKLAHOMA CITY	—	Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.	LAKERS	—	James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
L.A. Clippers	9	5	64%	3				Golden State	28	25	31-114				
Cleveland	6	7	46%	5 1/2				Memphis	30	29	23-95				
Phoenix	6	7	46%	5 1/2				Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).							
Golden State	3	12	20%	9 1/2											
Tuesday's games					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					Golden State 114, Memphis 95					
Golden State 114, Memphis 95					<b>GOLDEN STATE</b> — Paschall 7-15 3-17, Green 4-12 0-0 8, Cauley-Stein 2-3 2-2 6, Burks 9-15 9-9 29, Robinson III 8-14 1-1 20, Chris 7-11 3-17, Spellman 3-9 1-3 9, Bowman 3-0 0-3 3, Poole 2-8 0-0 5. Totals 43-90 19-22 114.					<b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b> — Ferguson 17-0 0-3, Gallinari 17-11 25, Adams 13-0 0-2, Paul 1-7 2-4, Gilgous-Alexander 5-16 4-16, Bazley 1-1 0-0 2, Nader 1-2 2-5, Noel 7-11 1-2 3, Schroder 12-20 4-31, Burton 2-0 0-4. Totals 38-80 22-35 107.					
New Orleans 115, Portland 104					<b>MEMPHIS</b> — Crowder 5-11 1-21 5, Jackson Jr. 3-7 1-2 8, Valanciunas 3-7 1-1 7, Morant 7-20 5-6 20, Brooks 7-17 1-11 8, Anderson 1-1 0-1 2, Gabardo 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 2-3 0-4, Clarke 6-14 5-17, Melton 0-1 0-0 6, Jones 2-6 0-0 4, Gudumir 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 45-88 19-24 114.					<b>LAKERS</b> — James 10-21 3-5 25, Davis 13-24 5-6 34, McGee 3-5 2-4 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-9 0-0 13, Green 2-0 0-5, Kuzma 2-4 0-5, Howard 1-2 1-2 3, Cook 1-5 0-0 3, Rondo 3-10 1-2 3, Caruso 3-6 0-8. Totals 43-89 12-19 112.					
Sacramento 102, Phoenix 116					<b>Golden State</b> 28 25 31-114					<b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b> 28 25 34-107					
Washington 107, Atlanta 102					<b>Memphis</b> 30 29 23-95					Lakers 33 30 30-19-112					
Charlotte 107, Cleveland 101					Three-Point Goals—Golden State 29-29 (Robinson III 3-6, Spellman 2-5, Burks 2-5, Bowman 1-2, Poole 1-5), Memphis 10-22 (Chris 0-2, Green 0-2), Memphis 9-25 (Crowder 4-9, Brooks 3-7, Morant 1-3, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Hill 1-1, Clarke 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson Jr., Paschall, Rebounds—Golden State 51 (Cauley-Stein, Green 10), Memphis 49 (Crowder 11). Assists—Golden State 33 (Green 11), Memphis 26 (Morant 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 24, Memphis 23. Technicals—Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). —A-14,511 (18,119).					Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 9-28 (Schroder 3-7, Gallinari 2-5, Gilgous-Alexander 2-6, Nader 1-2, Ferguson 1-6, Paul 0-2), Lakers 14-31 (Caldwell-Pope 3-4, Davis 3-5, Caruso 2-4, James 2-5, Green 1-2, Kuzma 1-3, Cook 1-4, Rondo 1-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 39 (Noel 8), Lakers 46 (James 11). Assists—Oklahoma City 20 (Lakers 14), Lakers 16 (James, Rondo 10). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 28, Lakers 20. Technicals—Schroder. —A-18,997 (18,997).					
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia										Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts can be signed.					
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City										Jan. 10 — All contracts guaranteed for rest of season.					
Golden State at Chicago										Feb. 6 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).					
Golden State at Denver										Feb. 14-16 — All-Star weekend, Chicago.					
Houston at L.A. Clippers															

## Melo: Anthony happy to be part of Blazers' plans

## FROM BACK PAGE

"The greatest feeling of it all was to feel wanted by a group of guys who believe in me and my talent and what I can bring to the table," said the 10-time All-Star, who has averaged about 24 points per game during his career. "It wasn't just the players, it was the coaching staff. They showed a strong belief in me and what I can still do."

He started right away, even before he'd participated in a full practice with the Blazers. He joined them the day after they'd lost at Houston on Monday night, and approximately 72 hours after getting confirmation by phone that the Blazers were ready to sign him.

"That was something that was established from the gate, when we had that phone call: Let's be transparent. That was a miscommunication over the last couple seasons over what my role would be and things that was expected from me, and that was a big point," Anthony said. "There's not nothing I won't be willing to do, but just let me know up front. Whatever it is, just let me know, put it out on the table and let's go from there."

"That was a big reason why I made my decision," Anthony added. "It worked. I'm here. They had a vision. They had a plan and I was part of that plan. When it came down to it, I wanted to be part of that plan."

In the meantime, Anthony assured that he "wasn't on the couch" waiting for a call, but continuing to train.

"Physically, as far as basketball goes, that comes easy to me," Anthony said. "I still have to put the work into that, but it was more of a mental and emotional challenge, more so than a physical challenge."

"For the time being, Anthony is steering clear of setting expectations. "Who knows? I don't think anyone knows what's going to happen this year," he said. "I'm here now. That's what's important. I could have still been here right? So, Portland pulled the trigger. No matter what happens, I will always appreciate that."

"I have a new outlook," he added. "For me, where I'm at, mentally, emotionally, the way I see things now, the way I approach the game, the way I approach this situation is more so me just having another different appreciation of just what this is and what the game of basketball brings."

## Calendar

Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts can be signed.

Jan. 10 — All contracts guaranteed for rest of season.

Feb. 16 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).

Feb. 16-18 — All-Star weekend, Chicago.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Diakite, No. 7 Cavaliers edge Lamb, Catamounts

By HANK KURZ JR.  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Mamadi Diakite and No. 7 Virginia found themselves in a nail-biter, and with Anthony Lamb putting on an offensive show in the second half, Diakite took it upon himself to try to slow the Vermont star.

Diakite scored 19 points as the Cavaliers overcame Lamb's 30-point night to beat Vermont 61-55 on Tuesday night.

"It reminded me of last year when we played against Purdue — Carsen Edwards hitting again and again and again," Diakite said, recalling Virginia's Elite Eight overtime victory in the NCAA Tournament when Edwards scored 42.

"One of those days when everything falls in. At the end, I wanted to take the challenge and I responded to it, I thought," Diakite said.

Lamb scored 25 points after halftime and hit seven three-pointers in all, but didn't score for the last 5½ minutes.

The Cavaliers had to overcome their own offensive struggles with their trademark — defense.

"I think we showed some grit with enough stops defensively and enough plays offensively," coach Tony Bennett said.

The Cavaliers (4-0) trailed before Diakite's basket gave them a 50-49 lead with 5:12 left and sparked a 9-0 run. Jay Huff scored twice in the spurt and Braxton Key hit a three-pointer as Virginia held the Catamounts scoreless, and forced four turnovers, in a nearly four-minute span.

Lamb at one point scored 17 points in a row for the Catamounts (4-1) and nearly matched the point total of the Cavaliers' first two opponents, who each managed just 34 points. Stef Smith added 11 points,

but Virginia turned Vermont's 13 turnovers into 20 points.

"We wanted to keep them off the offensive glass. We did that. Wanted to make threes. We did that, but just came up a little short," Vermont coach John Becker said. "Just had to play guys too many minutes. We were a guard down and I thought that caught up with us."

Kihei Clark scored 15 points and Key had 14 for Virginia.

## Big picture

**Vermont:** The Catamounts hang their hat on defense, too, and came into the game with a 107-9 record since the 2011-12 season when holding their opponents to 60 points or fewer.

**Virginia:** The Cavaliers' defensive excellence has been essential early in the season as they still are struggling to find an offensive rhythm. Highly regarded freshman guard Casey Morsell came into the game having made just two of 21 field-goal attempts and was 1-for-6. Virginia has made 21 three-pointers in its first four games and allowed 31, including 12 by the Catamounts in 34 attempts.

## Clark in charge

Clark, a sophomore not known for his shooting, made several key baskets, especially when both teams finally found some offensive rhythm down the stretch and were trading baskets. He hit a pair of three-pointers and scored on two drives to the basket.

"Just kind of taking what the defense gave me. I think on that three I hit in the second half, (the defender) went under, so I shot it," he said.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Virginia's Mamadi Diakite, front, loses the ball as Vermont's Anthony Lamb applies pressure Tuesday night in Charlottesville, Va. Lamb scored 30 points, but Virginia won 61-55.

## Roundup

# No. 4 Kansas weathers second-half challenge from East Tennessee

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Udoke Azubuike pounded home 21 points, Devon Dotson added 19 and fourth-ranked Kansas weathered East Tennessee State's second-half charge to escape with a 75-63 victory Tuesday night.

Marcus Garrett added 13 points for the Jayhawks (3-1), who led by 18 early in the game before the Pirates (3-1) closed within 61-56 with just over 5 minutes to go.

Azubuike's assortment of dunks, a couple of poised plays by Dotson and Garrett, and three misfires from beyond the arc by the Pirates' Patrick Good allowed the Jay-

hawks to pull away from the Pirates.

**No. 6 Maryland 74, Fairfield 55:** At College Park, Md., Jalen Smith had 17 points and eight rebounds as the Terrapins (4-0) used depth and balance to wear down the Stags (1-4).

Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 12 points to pass James Gist and move into the Top 20 on Maryland's career scoring list with 1,424.

**No. 8 Gonzaga 72, Texas-Arlington 66:** At Spokane, Wash., Ryan Woolridge had 19 points and nine rebounds as the Bulldogs (5-0) held off the Mavericks (2-3).

Killian Tillie played for the first time this season and added 15 points and eight

rebounds for Gonzaga, which has won 26 consecutive home games. Admon Gilder scored 13 points.

**No. 25 Washington 72, Maine 53:** At Seattle, Isaiah Stewart dominated on the interior and scored 16 points, Quade Green added 11 points on 5-for-5 shooting, and the Huskies (3-1) rebounded from their first loss of the season with a victory over the Black Bears (1-3).

Washington was handed its first setback over the weekend in a 75-62 loss to No. 20 Tennessee on a neutral court in Toronto.

**Liberty 55, Navy 48:** Myo Baxter-Bell knocked down four free throws and blocked a shot in the final minute to

allow the Flames to hold off the visiting Midshipmen.

Navy trailed by just three, 47-44 with less than two minutes left. Baxter-Bell pulled down a defensive rebound with 59 seconds remaining and, after drawing a foul seconds later, drained two shots from the line. Elijah Cuffee stole the inbound pass and added two more free throws with 41 seconds left to make it 51-44.

Baxter-Bell blocked a Cam Davis layup with 26 seconds left.

David had 16 points for the Midshipmen (2-2). Greg Summers added 10 points and nine rebounds. John Carter Jr. had 10 points and nine rebounds.

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Top four teams stay the same

LSU, Ohio State, Clemson, Georgia remain atop playoff rankings

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

The College Football Playoff rankings were unchanged at the top this week, with LSU first, followed by Ohio State, Clemson and Georgia.

The selection committee's third weekly rankings had little movement in the top 10, with Alabama fifth, followed by Oregon, Utah, Penn State, Oklahoma and Minnesota.

The committee could face an interesting decision with Alabama in the coming weeks. The Crimson Tide lost quarterback Tua Tagovailoa for the season to a hip injury Saturday. Alabama faces Western Carolina this weekend, so playing backup Mac Jones shouldn't make much difference. On Thanksgiving weekend, the Tide will face Auburn with its No. 2 quarterback, which should give the committee a better read on what kind of a team Alabama is now.

"We do not look forward," said committee chairman Rob Mulens, who is also Oregon's athletic director. "Our charge is to rank the teams based on their body of work through week 12, and that's



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

**Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was lost for the season last weekend after dislocating his hip. What kind of team will the fifth-ranked Crimson Tide be without Tagovailoa under center?**

what we did. Obviously, we'll watch the games moving forward and evaluate them after that."

Minnesota and Baylor, both of which lost for the first time last weekend, dropped in the rankings. Minnesota went from eighth to 10th after losing at Iowa. Baylor slipped from 13th to 14th

after blowing a 25-point lead to Oklahoma.

Ohio State and Penn State play this weekend in a game that could essentially eliminate the Nittany Lions from the playoff race.

The highest-ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences is Memphis at 18th, one ahead

of American Athletic Conference rival Cincinnati, and two ahead of Boise State from the Mountain West.

The highest-ranked team from outside the Power Five with a conference championship receives a bid to one of the New Year's Six bowls.

## Where is this going?

It certainly looks as if the Southeastern Conference is positioned to have two teams in the final four, but it's far from a slam dunk.

Tagovailoa's injury complicates the evaluation of Alabama, and it is difficult to see how it does anything but harm the Crimson Tide's chances. There is no way to argue the Tide are as good without one of the two or three best quarterbacks in the country and with a backup who has shown to be capable but not a star.

"We are aware of who's available in what games, and we make an evaluation based on watching the games and the results," Mulens said.

Of course, the rest of Alabama's roster is still about as talented and deep as it gets in college foot-

## CFP rankings

Nov. 19

	Record
1. LSU	10-0
2. Ohio State	10-0
3. Clemson	11-0
4. Georgia	9-1
5. Alabama	9-1
6. Oregon	9-1
7. Utah	9-1
8. Penn State	9-1
9. Oklahoma	9-1
10. Minnesota	9-1
11. Florida	9-2
12. Wisconsin	8-2
13. Michigan	9-1
14. Baylor	9-1
15. Auburn	7-3
16. Notre Dame	8-2
17. Iowa	7-3
18. Memphis	9-1
19. Cincinnati	9-1
20. Boise State	9-1
21. Oklahoma State	7-3
22. Iowa State	6-4
23. Southern Cal	7-4
24. Appalachian State	9-1
25. SMU	9-1

The playoff semifinals match the No. 1 seed vs. the No. 4 seed, and No. 2 will face No. 3. The semifinals will be hosted at the Peach Bowl and Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 28. The championship game will be played on Jan. 13, 2020 at New Orleans.

ball. There is a case to be made that if Jones and Alabama win at Auburn in impressive fashion they could get the Cardale Jones bump from the committee. You might remember in 2014, Jones stepped in for an injured J.T. Barrett in the Big Ten championship game and led Ohio State to a historic 59-0 rout of Wisconsin. That game nudged the Buckeyes past TCU and Baylor and into the fourth seed.

The problem for Alabama is unless LSU collapses down the stretch, the Tide are locked out of the SEC championship game.

## McGrone mans middle of stout Michigan defense

BY MATT SCHOCH

Associated Press

**I**N THE week leading up to his first college start, Michigan linebacker Cam McGrone said he was shaking before practices.

It was just Rutgers visiting Michigan Stadium, but being in the middle of the Wolverines' defense in the Big House was daunting for the redshirt freshman.

"You just need that game-time experience," McGrone said Monday. "After that, you know what to expect."

Michigan fans and coaches now know, too, and the expectations are high heading into a crucial finish to his first season on the field.

Recent home rivalry wins against then-No. 8 Notre Dame and Michigan State raised the stakes even more for the 19-year-old from Indiana, including a moment when he stopped in his tracks during Saturday's 44-10 win against the Spartans.

"At one point, I kind of forgot I was playing Michigan State, and I got up after I made the tackle, I just saw everybody cheering, and I was like, 'Dang, I'm really in the game,'" McGrone said. "Back in high school, I had a couple rivalry games, but none were as violent as that."

"It's definitely weird. I'm kind of feeling like a movie when I'm out there."

Before No. 12 Michigan (8-2, 5-2 Big Ten, No. 15 CFP) plays its biggest rival of all next week in No. 2 Ohio State, the Wolverines will visit Indiana (7-3, 4-3) on Saturday.

After redshirting a year behind Big Ten defensive player of the year Devin Bush Jr. last season, the 5-star prospect from Indianapolis has wasted no time making an impact.

McGrone, the only Michigan player from the Hoosier State, said he didn't watch much football growing up or even Indiana basketball. But since taking over for Josh Ross, who was injured and now may redshirt, McGrone has developed football instincts that are showing for Jim Harbaugh's team.

"He's getting better and better with understanding all the adjustments with the defensive calls and the responsibilities of the others around him," Harbaugh said. "And just playing really good football."

McGrone now has seven starts and has already recorded a pair of double-digit tackle outputs, including 12 against Notre Dame. In those seven games, Michigan's defense has allowed 11 touchdowns and forced 12 turnovers.

"When he came in, he was physically and mentally pretty high level already," senior linebacker Jordan Glasgow said. "Obviously you can see how good of a player he is now. I don't think



TONY DINE/AP

**Michigan State running back Elijah Collins, front, is brought down by Michigan defensive back Josh Metellus, left, and linebacker Cam McGrone during the first quarter of Saturday's game in Ann Arbor, Mich. Michigan won 44-10.**

it was really any surprise to the people who have been practicing with him that know how good of a player he is.

"He's going to make a lot of plays other people won't be able to make."

With Bush now a top NFL defensive rookie for the Pittsburgh Steelers, the middle of defensive coordinator Don Brown's unit is in McGrone's hands.

McGrone said learning under Bush as a true freshman was a blessing, and he said the speed shared by the pair is covered by top pro and college programs.

"To be behind (Bush) and learn from him, just watch him play every Saturday, it's kind of contagious," McGrone said. "You want to be as close as possible to him."

Glasgow was the only Michigan linebacker to be named a semifinalist for the Butkus Award, but the fifth-year senior said he considers McGrone, along with Khalake Hudson, to be better linebackers than he is.

"If (McGrone) started all the games, I wouldn't be surprised if he was up there instead of myself," Glasgow said. "I feel Cam still has a lot to improve on, and he's going to be a much better player going forward and going forward to next year."

"I don't think that we've really seen enough of him to offer yet, so I think that's really encouraging and exciting."



## NHLEAD

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
Boston	21	11	5	3	57	79	76	1	1-0-2
Florida	21	11	5	3	57	79	76	1	1-0-2
Montreal	21	11	5	3	57	79	76	1	1-0-2
Buffalo	21	10	8	3	23	63	60	3	1-0-2
Toronto	21	9	10	4	27	73	81	8	1-0-2
Chicago	21	9	10	4	27	73	81	8	1-0-2
Ottawa	21	9	11	1	19	59	69	10	1-0-2
Washington	21	9	11	1	19	59	69	10	1-0-2

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
N.Y. Islanders	21	13	7	1	31	63	46	17	1-0-2
Carolina	21	13	7	1	27	74	61	13	1-0-2
Pittsburgh	21	13	7	1	27	74	61	13	1-0-2
Philadelphia	21	10	7	4	24	63	65	6	1-0-2
Washington	21	10	7	4	24	63	65	6	1-0-2
N.Y. Rangers	18	8	8	2	18	60	66	6	1-0-2
New Jersey	20	7	9	4	18	51	54	17	1-0-2

## Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
St. Louis	21	13	6	3	31	65	64	1	1-0-2
Colorado	21	13	6	3	28	61	61	0	1-0-2
Chicago	21	12	8	2	26	61	63	2	1-0-2
Dallas	21	12	8	2	26	61	63	2	1-0-2
Minnesota	21	12	8	2	26	61	63	2	1-0-2
Edmonton	21	12	8	2	26	61	63	2	1-0-2
Arizona	21	11	9	3	25	67	65	2	1-0-2
Vegas	21	11	9	3	25	67	65	2	1-0-2
Vancouver	21	11	9	3	24	70	65	5	1-0-2
San Jose	21	10	10	4	24	65	68	3	1-0-2
Anaheim	22	10	10	2	22	59	64	5	1-0-2
Los Angeles	21	8	12	1	17	53	75	22	1-0-2

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
Edmonton	21	14	6	3	31	76	63	13	1-0-2
Arizona	21	14	6	3	28	61	61	0	1-0-2
Vegas	21	13	9	3	25	67	65	2	1-0-2
Vancouver	21	11	9	4	24	70	65	5	1-0-2
San Jose	21	10	10	4	24	65	68	3	1-0-2
Anaheim	22	10	10	2	22	59	64	5	1-0-2
Los Angeles	21	8	12	1	17	53	75	22	1-0-2

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

## Monday's games

Washington 5, Anaheim 2  
Arizona 3, Los Angeles 0

## Tuesday's games

Florida 5, Pittsburgh 4, OT  
Minnesota 4, Buffalo 1

Boston 5, New Jersey 1  
Ottawa 2, Montreal 3

St. Louis 3, Tampa Bay 1  
Winnipeg 2, Nashville 1

Carolina 4, Chicago 2  
Vegas 4, Toronto 2

San Jose 2, Los Angeles 0  
Colorado 3, Calgary 2

Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1  
Washington 1, N.Y. Rangers 5

## Wednesday's games

Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1  
Washington 1, N.Y. Rangers 5

## Thursday's games

Buffalo 2, Boston 1  
Detroit 2, Columbus 1

Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Islanders 1  
Philadelphia 4, Carolina 1

Vancouver 4, Florida 1  
Vegas 4, Toronto 2

San Jose 2, Los Angeles 0  
Colorado 3, Calgary 2

Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1  
Washington 1, N.Y. Rangers 5

## Friday's games

Edmonton 2, Los Angeles 0  
N.Y. Islanders 1, Pittsburgh 4

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## NFL



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Philip Rivers had his first four-interception game since 2016 as the Los Angeles Chargers fell to 4-7 Monday night.

## Bolts' season on brink after another close loss

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — No matter the opponent and no matter the country, the Los Angeles Chargers' offense can't seem to score consistently when it really counts this season.

Another poor offensive finish at Azteca Stadium on Monday night sent the Chargers into their bye week at 4-7 with a 24-17 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Bolts' seven losses have all occurred by seven points or fewer, adding another chapter to the maddening history of close defeats that this franchise brought to Los Angeles nearly three years ago.

After two seasons of relative success in close games under coach Anthony Lynn, the Chargers have slipped back into a rut in which they're simply not good enough to win down the stretch. Los Angeles is 2-7 in one-score games this season after going 7-1 last season in games decided by eight points or fewer.

"Not scoring in the red zone, turning it over — man, that gets you beat," quarterback Philip Rivers said after his first four-interception game since 2016. "That's what's gotten us beat all year."

Los Angeles allowed only three drives longer than 30 yards by Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs on Monday night in Mexico City, but the Chargers' offense couldn't catch up in the fourth quarter while the defense shut out Kansas City in the final 19 minutes.

After the Bolts' first two fourth-quarter drives went just 24 yards and resulted in two punts, Rivers threw three interceptions on the final two drives. His reckless heave toward Andre Patton was picked off with 4:13 to play, and he ended the Chargers' desperate 77-yard final drive with an underthrown pass to Kansas City safety Dan Sorenson near the goal line with 18 seconds left.

The Chargers are now hanging on the periphery of the playoff picture after this loss. Their AFC West schedule continues Dec. 1 with a trip to Denver, but Los Angeles would need an excellent

finish and big-time help to earn a second straight postseason trip.

Even after this heartbreaker, several Chargers put on a proud public face about their hopes.

"Yes sir," pass rusher Melvin Ingram replied when asked if Los Angeles could still make the playoffs. "We're still the same team, no matter. Whatever has to happen will take care of itself. All we can do is line up and fight every week."

### What's working

Los Angeles is failing despite a defense that hasn't allowed 28 points by any opponent this season. Gus Bradley's unit has survived major injury issues to keep the Bolts in every game, and it ranks fifth in the NFL with just 317.5 yards allowed per game.

### What needs help

Rivers' 16-turnover season is the most glaring problem. The Chargers' starter in every game since 2006 is playing without both of his starting offensive tackles, but that doesn't explain his wildly inconsistent throws even with strong protection. While he ranks second in the league with 3,169 yards passing, his 15 TD throws are tied for 13th — and his 64.4 percent completion rate ranks 18th among quarterbacks with at least 100 attempts.

### Key number

**47½:** Sacks by Ingram after he sacked Mahomes and passed Junior Seau for fourth place in Chargers history. Except for a couple of exceptional scrambles, LA's defense contained the vaunted Mahomes, holding him to 182 yards on 19-for-32 passing.

### Next steps

After a much-needed bye, the Chargers must keep pushing forward and hoping this offense finds its stride in the red zone under new play-caller Shane Steichen. Their trip to Denver is a chance to get even for an embarrassing home loss earlier this season to the then-winless Broncos (3-7) while keeping their slim postseason hopes alive.

# Steelers running short on healthy players, time

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The chaotic ending will live in infamy. The carnage that came before it could have been just as significant an impact on the Pittsburgh Steelers' season.

The ugly confrontation between Cleveland defensive end Myles Garrett and Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph on the final play of the Browns' 21-7 victory last Thursday — an altercation that culminated with Garrett drilling Rudolph in the head with the quarterback's helmet, a swing that resulted in Garrett being suspended indefinitely by the NFL — provided a chilling flashpoint that reverberated far beyond the 120 miles that separate the longtime AFC North rivals.

Rudolph insisted in the aftermath that he's fine. Maybe, but the Steelers (5-5) most certainly are not.

Not with wide receivers JuJu Smith-Schuster and Diontae Johnson both dealing with concussions sustained following illegal helmet-to-helmet hits by Cleveland defensive backs. Not with running back James Conner aggravating a shoulder injury that could keep him out an extended period. Not with center Maurkice Pouncey facing a three-game ban for punching and kicking Garrett while attempting to retaliate for Garrett's swipe at Rudolph.

Even when healthy, Pittsburgh's offense has been a mixed bag with Rudolph under center after Ben Roethlisberger was lost for the season in September because of a right elbow injury. Now the Steelers face the prospect of moving forward without their top running back, two of their top three receivers and one of the best centers in the league.

"Just injuries wearing us down a little bit," guard David DeCastro said. "That's part of the game when you're losing guys and stuff. It's a player-driven league, it really is. I wish I had a better answer for you. Injuries are tough."

And, for the Steelers this season, relentless.

Smith-Schuster and Johnson are both in the concussion protocol, their status for Sunday's visit to winless Cincinnati (0-10) uncertain. Conner's setback could be potentially longer term, another staggering blow to an offense that ranks in the bottom 10 in the league in both points and total yards. Yet just as troubling, however, is the play of the offensive line.

Save for a concussion that cost veteran guard Ramon Foster two games last month,

Pittsburgh's line has been relatively healthy. While the group had done a solid job protecting Rudolph before the Browns took him down four times — the Steelers entered the game having allowed the fewest sacks in the league — it has struggled to generate any significant push in short-yardage situations.

Having healthy, capable and eligible bodies would help. There haven't been many to go around of late, and Pouncey's absence will only make things more difficult. The seven-time Pro Bowler appealed his suspension Tuesday. While there's a chance it may be reduced, the odds of it being lifted are practically nonexistent.

"Hopefully we can get him back soon," DeCastro said.

B.J. Finney will likely start until Pouncey returns. Finney's filled in capably at several offensive line spots, including center, during his four-year career. Yet for a team with limited playmakers, losing a player with Pouncey's capabilities only further decreases Pittsburgh's margin for error, one that may be nonexistent if Smith-Schuster and Johnson aren't cleared in time to face the Bengals.

If neither can go it means only one receiver who began the season on the two-deep third chart — James Washington — will be available. The Steelers cut Dante Moncrief late last month and placed Ryan Switzer on injured reserve last week. Rudolph ended the Cleveland game throwing to Washington, Johnny Holton and practice squad graduate Tevin Jones, who caught two passes in his NFL debut.

The Steelers added some depth in the wake of the injuries, signing rookie wide receiver Deon Cain and rookie running back Kerrith Whyte Jr. to the 53-man roster and placing wide receivers Quadree Henderson and Amara Darboh and running back Ralph Webb on the practice squad. Combined career total yards from scrimmage: 123 yards.

Cain — who was on Indianapolis' practice squad — wasn't surprised when his phone rang with an offer from the Steelers. He caught the Browns' game. It wasn't hard to put two and two together.

"Once I watched the game and kind of seeing everything that went down, I was like, 'OK. You guys do need a little bit of help around here,'" Cain said.

Maybe more than a little bit. Pittsburgh's schedule down the stretch remains user-friendly — only two of its final six games are against teams with winning records — but considering the ever-expanding injured list, nothing is guaranteed.

"They're in a run to get into the playoffs," Cain said. "So they need some immediate playmakers. That's definitely me. I just want to come in here and show them what I've got."

Juju Smith-Schuster was one of two Pittsburgh Steelers receivers injured by helmet-to-helmet hits in a loss to the Cleveland Browns.

David Richard d'AP





## SPORTS

NBA

MELO,

WITH

AGE

Anthony brings new outlook to new team

By BRETT MARTEL  
Associated Press

Carmelo Anthony had accepted the possibility that his NBA career might be over.

That seems to have liberated him to come back on his own terms when he signed with the Portland Trail Blazers.

"I came to a point where I was willing to accept it either way," Anthony said after playing the first game of his 17th season with his fifth NBA team on Tuesday night. "I had to get myself mentally prepared for that and I did, to be honest with you."

"I stayed with it, but there was times where I didn't want to. I wanted to just say, 'Forget it, move on with my life, spend more time with my family.' I started getting more comfortable with that," Anthony continued. "I came into this game with a totally different mindset, totally different motivation."

Anthony's Portland debut — played across the street from where he led Syracuse to the 2003 NCAA championship — was not a triumphant one. He missed 10 of 14 shots, finished with 10 points, and the Blazers lost 115-104 in New Orleans.

Anthony was in good spirits, though, when he exited the locker room and stood in a hallway, patiently taking questions and often smiling as he spoke introspectively about the significance of his first NBA game action since his unceremonious departure from the Houston Rockets a year ago, after appearing in just 10 games.

SEE MELO ON PAGE 26

## Triple crown

James compiles historic stat line » NBA, Page 26

Carmelo Anthony debuted for the Portland Trail Blazers, his fifth NBA team, in a 115-104 loss to the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday night in New Orleans.

GERALD HERBERT / AP



Kickers' FG percentage is lowest since '03 » NFL, Page 30

